

Philippians Sermon Series: An Exploration of Christian Joy

Sermon-based Small Group Guide - Week of Sunday, February 17th

Sermon Title: Sent to Shine Like the Stars

Scripture Texts: Philippians 2:12-30

Welcome

Greet everyone as they arrive and check in with one another. Provide refreshments if possible.

Discussion

Story Questions

Review the Mt. Palomar telescope illustration: The town of Escondido has dim street lights for the benefit of stargazing.

Share a time when you were able to have a clear view of the stars.

What do we have in our lives that obscures Christ's Light?

What is the significance/impact of several stars shining brightly vs. one star?

What is the parallel in the church?

Scripture Exploration

Read Philippians 2:12-30

If you had to give a character reference for Timothy and Epaphroditus, what would you say? How do they illustrate versus 2:1-4?

What does it mean to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (vs. 12)?

Look at different translations.

Read Genesis 15:5

How are God's promises in Genesis being fulfilled today?

Read Mt. 5:14-16

How does this passage tie in with our scripture? What does it mean in relation to being sent?

Sermon Questions

What does it mean to be sent?

Where are you sent?

What does it mean that we are all sent?

How do you feel about being sent to shine like a star at work/home/school etc.? Where/when is this easy? Difficult?

Is your attitude shining or do you look like you are eating a lemon? How can we become more natural in shining Christ's light?

Application Questions

Being sent is not an optional aspect of being a Christian.

How can we expand our sense of being sent to all areas of our lives?

What is the role of a Christian sender?

How can we support those who are sent?

Do you have a mission place where you serve on a regular basis? Tell about who you serve and what you do. Are there some ways others in your group could join you in that service?

Discuss the potential of doing something together as a group to serve others in the name of Jesus.

See the suggestions on the next page.

Pick a ministry. Pick a date.

If it is not possible for everyone in your group to do this service activity, then think in terms of sending a few out to do the work while the others support them in preparation and prayer. For example, have someone in your group make sack lunches for those who will be going out to do the work.

Group Prayer

Send each member of your group out with prayer into the places they serve.

Pray for the mission teams we are sending to Ethiopia and Belize.

Pray for those who continue to work toward restoration in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Remember

“But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”

Philippians 2:17-18

Suggestions for Groups – Sent to Serve!

Consider the gifts of your group and find a way to serve together or support another group being sent to serve. Choose one of the options below or come up with your own idea.

Be Prayer Partners

Sign up to be prayer partners for a student or leader going on **Easter Project** - the mission trip to Tijuana.

Contact: cydneysbrown@yahoo.com

You'll be asked to write a support letter to your assigned person and deliver it to the church by March 1st. Cydney will send you a packet with more information.

Serve Lunch to Keenagers

Come to the church and serve lunch to the Keenagers at noon on Thursday, March 20th. This is Maundy Thursday – a great day to humble yourself, put others before yourself, and serve them as Jesus did with his disciples in the upper room. Your group would just be responsible for serving food, not preparing it.

Contact: Brenda Norton at 747-1058.

Fix-it Project

Contact the Men's Service Group (MSG) to find out if there is a fix-it project you can do at the home of one of our members or at the church.

Contact: Keith Liptack at 926-4688

Create an Auction Basket for Easter Project

Use your resources and connections to create a themed basket for the auction as a way of supporting those who are being sent to do mission work in Tijuana the first week of April. The auction is Saturday, March 1st. Plan to attend the auction together.

Contact: Judy Heid, 747-1058 x 133

Be a Moppet

Come as a group on the first Tuesday of the month to take care of young children while their mother's get a break to spend time with each other and get re-energized to be sent back into their role of service.

Contact: Kim Heinrich at 465-8023

Rebuild Spokane

Join with others on Saturday, April 26th to provide needed renovations to low-income housing throughout the city.

Contact: Curt Shoemaker at 448-6063

Make a Meal

Work as a group to put together a meal for someone in need. Here are three options:

1. for a family with a new baby – contact Kim Heinrich at 465-8023
2. for someone who is ill – contact Kim Johnson, Moderator of the Deacons at 747-6580
3. for kids at Youth for Christ – contact YFC at 327-7721

Work a Shift at the FPC Spring Rummage Sale

Come as a group to help setup before the sale or cleanup afterwards or be here during the sale to help customers and keep things tidy. Or, provide lunch for the Rummage Sale Team. Setup begins May 7. Sale is May 8-10.

Contact: Linda Browne at 448-2513

Be a Support Team for VBS

Help decorate the church before VBS (starts June 23); provide snacks for the VBS teachers (June 23-27); or cleanup at the end of the week (noon, June 27).

Contact: Tani Starbuck-Carlson, 747-1058 x111