

Title	Shine Like Stars
Text	Philippians 2:14-18
Date	14 February 2021



The questions below are designed to be used by OCC LIFEGroups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group.

The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at occweb.org/sermons.

OVERVIEW

Paul continues to remind the church in Philippi of what it means to live faithfully in the world.

TEXT

V	NIV	The Message	Good News Translation
14	Do everything without grumbling or arguing,	Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing	Do everything without complaining or arguing,
15	so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky	allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving	so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky,
16	as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.	Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.	as you offer them the message of life. If you do so, I shall have reason to be proud of you on the Day of Christ, because it will show that all my effort and work have not been wasted.
17	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	Even if I am executed here and now, I'll rejoice in being an element in the offering of your faith that you make on Christ's altar, a part of your rejoicing. But turnabout's fair play—you must join	Perhaps my life's blood is to be poured out like an offering on the sacrifice that your faith offers to God. If that is so, I am glad and share my joy with you all.
18	So you too should be glad and rejoice with me all of you.	me in my rejoicing. Whatever you do, don't feel sorry for me.	In the same way, you too must be glad and share your joy with me.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Introduction – connect with your group

- How would you expect someone to act if they believed these statements?
 - The Maple Leafs are the best team in the NHL.
 - Walmart has the best prices for groceries.
 - Christmas Eve is the greatest holiday of the whole year.
 - Jesus is my personal Lord and Savior.

Looking at the Text

- Read Philippians 2:14-18
- Are there words, phrases or ideas that pastor Mike used that you didn't understand?
- What is one thing that stuck out to you from the message?
- One phrase we can use to describe this passage is "Living with Spiritual Congruence" – acting in a way that is consistent with what we say we believe.
- Stop whining like the world does
 - What are some of the things that you heard people whine about this week (take no more than 2 minutes).
 - As you look at that list, what are some of the items you tend to complain about most?
 - What are some alternatives that the Bible offers to complaining? Come up with specific passages.
- What type of light you are (candle, flashlight, or spotlight)?
Talk about some of the positive and negative traits of being that kind of light.
 - Just like a flashlight is meant to give light, so as Christians we are meant to shine.
How would you describe the strength of the light you're shining: Dead, dim, flickering, or bright? Why?
- Unpack the statement, "Persistence is proportional to radiance."
What are some of the characteristics of staying close to the light source, Christ?
How does staying close to the light help you reflect the light better?
- Give some practical examples of living life differently and speaking truth accurately.
Here are some ideas to get you started:
 - Living life differently: smile, love people, don't lie, help those who need assistance, be kind and compassionate.
 - Speak truth accurately: don't exaggerate, mean what you say and say what you mean, point people to Scripture not opinions, and be accurate with facts and figures.
- Share a time when yours or someone else's suffering was an act of worship. How did that suffering bring Christ glory?
- Let your light for Jesus shine
 - If you're someone who spends most of your time around Christ-followers, what are some ways that you intentionally engage with people who don't know Jesus? Can you give some examples?
 - If you're someone who spends most of your time with lost people, how can you make the most of your time with Christians?
- What does it mean for you to offer yourself a living sacrifice (vs. 16-17, Romans 12:1)

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER

Pray that you and your group will live consistently with what we say we believe.

THIS WEEK

Read the letter/book of Philippians – it's only 4 chapters.

- **Connect Up:** In **John 8:12**, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." In **Matthew 5:14**, Jesus said Christians are the light of the world. How are both lights similar, and how are they different? For example, as God, Jesus is pure light, but Christians only reflect His light. So how do we reflect God's light? How do non-Christians reflect God (*imago Dei*, made in the *image of God*)?
- **Connect In:** Just as individual Christians are to glow or shine in the dark, so, too, is the whole church (both local and universal). Identify some of the things the church has done that reflect the light of Christ. Identify some of the things the church has done that do not reflect the light of Christ. What can we learn from these two lists?
- **Connect Out:** The noted theologian and Bible translator Erasmus (1466-1536) said, "Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself." D. L. Moody said: "We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining, they just shine." Light penetrates darkness. How can living in the light of Jesus be a witness to a watching world? Share an example of someone seeing someone's actions and identifying that it was Jesus in that person.