

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 29-October 5, 2024

“SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is something in your life that you've had to work hard for, and what did you learn in the process?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 2:12-18.

1. When Paul says, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” what does he mean? Does the Christian life require a lot of effort or very little effort? What is the difference between working for your salvation and working out our salvation?
2. Share to the group a specific area in your life you think you need to grow in. What steps do you think is needed for you to grow in that area?
3. Verse 13 says that it is God who “works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (ESV). Can you think of specific examples where this can be applied in your own life?
4. How does grumbling and disputing undermine the grace of God? Read Exodus 16:8, 1 Corinthians 10:10. How big a deal is grumbling and complaining?
5. How do complainers make you feel? What harm does it do? If you rate your own self from 1-10 as a grumbler, how would you score (10 = worst complainer)? Is Paul simply saying, “Just try really hard not to complain”? Or is there more to it?
6. When Paul talks about “holding fast the word of life,” what does that mean in a practical sense? Why is it important for us to be rooted well in God’s Word?

7. What did Paul mean when he said he was being poured out like a drink offering? What is its connection to worship?

NEXT STEPS

- I will work out my salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that God has given me such grace that I do not deserve.
- I will depend on God’s strength and not mine.
- I will stop grumbling and arguing.
- I will strive to deepen my relationship with Jesus Christ and grow in my understanding of his Word.
- I will be serious of God’s call for me to be a light to the world around me.
- I will remember that my life is a “drink offering,” a worship unto the Lord.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a deeper understanding of your role as a representative of Christ to the world around you.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

September 30	Philippians 2:12-18
October 1	1 John 5:1-13
October 2	Matthew 5:13-16
October 3	Numbers 21:4-9
October 4	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
October 5	Psalms 27:1-14
October 6	Luke 17:7-10