What Godly qualities make disciples of Jesus *shine as lights in the world*?

How does the manner in which believers engage with both Christians and non-Christians affect our culture?

How does shining as a light for Jesus encourage others to be drawn to Him?

How did the Apostle view his own life (v. 17)?

What is the meaning of *being poured out as a drink offering* (v. 17)?

How did Paul view the faith of the Philippian believers, and what did he want them to experience?

Who has invested in your life and growth as a follower of Jesus?

Whom have you invested in to help him/her grow in Jesus?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:9-10

APPLICATION

Before whom do you want to shine as a light in the world at work, school, or in your neighborhood? In what ways can and will you do so this week?

MEMORY VERSE

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// November 22, 2026 //

Sermon Series:
A Call to Joy

Paul Ewing
Century Baptist Church

Shine Like the Stars

Philippians 2:12-18

1. Identity vv. 12, 15

2. Character vv. 12-13

3. Vocation vv. 14-18

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

// November 22, 2026 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group or Bible study. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is designed to facilitate interaction by diving into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. While this study guide can be used individually, the greatest benefit of growth comes when people are interacting with each other around Biblical truth.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

About what do you tend to grumble or argue?

INTRODUCTION to *A Life of Joy* series

The letter to the church in Philippi is one of four written from prison (this time he is under house arrest in Rome) by the Apostle Paul. Founded on his second missionary journey, the Philippian Church was the first church established by Paul in Europe(Acts 16). This letter is a thank you for the kindness and generosity shown by the saints there. "It's usually difficult to capture the essence of a letter in one word, but in the case of Philippians, that one word is *joy*. Paul didn't write to answer any profound theological question, solve some knotty practical problem, or deal with a specific sin. Instead, he wrote to express and encourage joy. In a way, the book of Philippians is a showcase of joy. Like a treasure on display in the center of a gallery, joy can be examined from several angles to better appreciate its brilliance. Each of the four chapters reveals one of the distinct facets of that joy."
[Swindoll, C. R. (2017). Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (Vol. 9, p. 11). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.]

READ Philippians 2:12-18

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What connection is the Apostle Paul making through the use of *therefore* (ESV, NIV) or *so* (NASB) in verse 12?

Who are *my beloved* (v. 12)?

What impact does addressing the saints at Philippi as *my beloved* have on them?

Is there a difference between *working out your salvation* and *working for your salvation*? Explain.

What does the Apostle mean by the phrase *working out your salvation*?

From what we have read so far in Paul's letter, identify some ways the Philippian believers could work out their salvation.

How do the qualifiers of f*ear and trembling* (v. 12) impact the exhortation to *work out your salvation*?

What is the work of God in us to accomplish and for whom (v. 13)?

What exhortation for Christian living does Paul give in verses 14-16?

How do grumbling and disputing impact the way we are perceived and our witness for Jesus Christ?

What is meant by *a crooked and perverse generation*?

Why would people who do not grumble or dispute appear or shine as lights in the world?

What would make Paul proud of or glory in the Philippian saints (v. 16)?