

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

9. Contagious joy was a hallmark of the early church as described in Acts. What, if any, obstacles to joy have you faced recently? What truth about God or His purposes for us do you need to claim?

10. Why is a commitment to spiritual growth necessary if we want to live the way Paul calls us to in these verses? What role does our growth group play in helping us?

11. Paul challenged the Philippian Christians to live in a way that their faith in Jesus was evident to people who watched their lives. Can people say the same thing about you? What really sets us apart as Christians?

Prayer Requests

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Thriving Amid the Threats:
Thriving When the Powerful Oppose You

February 5, 2017
Acts 5:17-42

A Tale of Two Kingdoms:

Life Lessons for L_____S_____ in the Kingdom of God

1. A Kingdom of S_____ ... or ... a Kingdom with a Mission
2. A Kingdom of Guilt ... or ... a Kingdom with a M_____
3. A Kingdom in Rebellion ... or ... a Kingdom of R_____
4. A Kingdom honored by the W_____ ... or ... a Kingdom honored by G_____

Living for the Kingdom of God turns S_____ for his
C_____ into a cherished B_____ of honor

What do I need to do with what I've heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

February 5, 2017

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. Are you a person who is easily frazzled? For example: When things don't go your way, do you make the best of it or do you let it get to you?

2. What daily task is most difficult for you to do without complaining or arguing? Why? When do you most often find yourself grumbling in your relationship with God?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

3. One of the ways the powerful opposed the early church was to take away their key leaders. What did Paul encourage the Philippians to do even though he was not present with them? Do you struggle in your faith when you find yourself without leadership or direction? What should you do in those moments?

4. What do you think it means to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (v. 12)? Look again at verse 13. What are the differences in how we work out our salvation and how God works in and through us?

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18.

5. A natural response to being opposed or pressed in on by the world is to complain and become argumentative in how we respond, although that is not the Christlike response (Matt. 5:38-42). How do you see this tendency in your day-to-day life? Has something specific made you feel this way recently?

6. To “shine . . . like stars” means to stand apart for God in the darkness. How does Paul tell us we can live this way? What does this mean for us in 2017 in Canada? Look back at Philippians 2:5-11 for more insight.

7. What was it about service and sacrifice that brought Paul joy? What part does our focus on service play in living a life of joy?

8. How does someone else's suffering affect you? Is suffering with them a part of your response? Why would Paul expect them to rejoice with Him in suffering?