

Philippians

A Life of Purpose and Joy

Live As Lights To The World

Date: Sunday 18th April

Speaker: Aaron Smith

Key Verses: Philippians 2:12-30

Talk Summary:

How are we living as lights to the world?

1. Through our attitudes and behaviors (namely complaining and arguing) (v12-18)

- a. How is our heart attitude when we complain or argue? Do we follow the example of Jesus, who didn't complain or argue BUT did speak up about injustice etc
- b. People's view of God can come from our attitudes and behaviors – if they see our 'good deeds they will glorify the Father' (Matt 5:16)
- c. When we get discouraged because we don't see the change we are praying for (injustices, sufferings etc) it is key to remain close to God. Pray for perseverance, fall back on the truths and promises of God and the Bible, press in to him.

2. Through our humility and care (v18-24)

- a. We are called to show genuine love, care and humility. We should, as Jesus did, put others first and serve (eg, Jesus washing the disciple's feet)
- b. Sometimes it can be hard to keep a heart posture of humility and care for various reasons – again when this happens we are called to press into God, for his love and compassion and his heart, that he has for us, for others.
- c. We also need to consider who we are letting in to our lives – who is journeying/praying/cheering us on as Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus were doing.

3. Through our risk taking (v25-30)

- a. We all take risks every day, some we think more deeply than others. One of which might be to do with the risk of sharing our faith.

- b. Risking, or Trying, is really important when it comes to helping see the transformative message of Jesus
- c. Who took a risk by sharing the good news of Jesus with you? What would have happened if they hadn't?
- d. Have an open heart to saying 'Yes' the next time Jesus puts an opportunity before you. Tell people, get them to pray, cheer and support you.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- Is our heart hard when it comes to the whole area of arguing and complaining? Is there a situation God has highlighted to you specifically?
- Who is in your life who you are showing 'Humility and Care' to? Who is speaking, supporting and cheering you on?
- What's your next step in trying or risking? Share what this is so we can have people cheer/support and pray for us.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invite to?