

Philippians 2:12-18

Standing Out for Jesus

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Lesson Focus: Paul challenges the Philippian believers to stand out in the world by their good conduct and attitude. In so doing, they are not drawing attention to themselves, but to Jesus. We hope all of us believers will be challenged to do the same today!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Standing Out Crown

Starter Activity: Humility Review Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship for another short "Drive Thru History" video to launch us into our lesson. Our text today is another one that begins with the word "**Therefore**". As we have said in many recent lessons, whenever we begin reading a passage of the Bible with the word "therefore" we must ask the question, "**What is it there for?**" This is because there is a stream of thought that we are otherwise splashing right in the middle of, and we will likely misunderstand. To better understand we must "paddle upstream" a little bit so that we can "go with the flow"!

That is where our video comes in. This short video will take us quickly through what we learned last week about how Christians are to "go low" and pursue humility, following the amazing example set by Jesus Christ Himself. If you'd like to preview the video, you can find it [here](#) on Rightnow Media. If you don't have access to Rightnow Media, you can get free access through RMC [here](#)! Afterwards, we will have a little bit of discussion and then dismiss the 1st/2nd graders to their classes for their lesson. *

Now that we know what the "therefore" is "there for", we are ready to open our Bibles and better understand what lessons the Lord has for us today!

Bible Study:

Philippians 2:12a: Paul is about to give them a command, but before he does, he first encourages them. Paul calls them his "beloved". *

Q: What does that mean? A: It means these people in Philippi are precious to him! Remember Paul, as a missionary, planted a church in this city a few years earlier and he is committed to seeing them grow in their trust and **obedience** to Jesus. *

Paul also points out the difference between obeying in his presence and obeying in his absence. * Most of us are pretty good at obeying our parents/teachers/leaders when they are watching us. But how about when they are NOT watching us? That is a true test of our character! * (**Teachers:** Consider sharing some examples of this!)

Q: By the way, is there EVER a time when God is not watching? NO! *

Philippians 2:12b-13: This passage can sound a little confusing. Do we work or does God work? The answer is BOTH! There are two mistakes that people often make with these verses that we must not make:

- 1) Believe that we save ourselves. We must be "good enough" and "do enough" to please God and earn His love. **WRONG!** (for you will never be good enough) This sets aside everything we just reviewed about Jesus's death on the cross as well as other countless passages of Scripture. (**Galatians 2:21**) *
- 2) Believe that because God saved me, now I can just do whatever I want, even sin. **WRONG!** Trampling on God's grace and love as if it gives us a license to sin should be unthinkable to Christians! (**Romans 6:1-2**)

No, we are saved by God's grace through faith, which is not of ourselves, but the **FREE** gift of God. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) This is the gospel that we rejoice in and cling to. But we also respond with loving **obedience**. (**Ephesians 2:10**) Jesus isn't just Savior, but also Lord! And as Lord He calls the shots, not us! *

But as v. 13 says, He also works this loving obedience "in" to us by the Holy Spirit. All believers have the Spirit of God working inside of them to will and do what He wants. Our job is to work out what He has worked in...not to become saved, but **BECAUSE** we are saved!

Read John 15:5: In another passage of Scripture, Jesus teaches that He is the vine and we are the branches. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a branch to show) *

Q: What are the branches of a vine supposed to do? A: Bear fruit! But what if they are not connected to or "abiding" in the vine? They won't receive the nutrients they need to grow and bear fruit! * In the same way, we must stay connected or attached to Jesus by faith *, so that we can work "out" what He works "in"! For apart from Him we can do **NOTHING!**

Philippians 2:14: Ouch! This hits us hard, doesn't it!

Q: What does it mean to be complaining? A: It is whining about something we don't like. We complain about all sorts of things don't we? **Teachers:** Ask for examples! *

Q: Why do you think it is bad to be a complainer? A: First of all, it never makes us happier! But more importantly, it pushes God away! When complaining we are not abiding in Jesus, but ONLY thinking about ourselves! *

Philippians 2:15-16a: Here is a very important reason why Christians are to resist complaining and arguing, so that they would **stand out** and shine in the world in such a way that they "win" people to Jesus Christ! * But if Christians are grumpy and behave just like everyone else, why would anyone want to become one?

This challenge reminds me a little bit of the "Where's Waldo" picture puzzles. In those pictures there are lots of people that all look the same, except for one guy: Waldo. * He always stands out and it is fun trying to find him. (**Teachers:** We will leave several puzzle printouts in your room and consider using them in some way * with the kids. Afterwards, reference the picture of him to make one more point)

Q: Does Waldo look grumpy and complaining to you? A: NO! He stands out not only with his red/white outfit, but his welcoming attitude. And in the same way, * Christians are to stand out not only with their good attitude, but the good news! If anyone had a right to complain it would be Paul who was unjustly thrown into prison. And yet, he stood out in such a way that he won people to Jesus while in prison! *

Philippians 2:16b: Nothing would give Paul greater joy than to know that these believers were standing out, abiding in Jesus, and bearing fruit in the world! And nothing would give me greater joy than knowing that YOU kids are standing out, abiding in Jesus, and bearing fruit in the world today! *

Philippians 2:17-18: There are those words "glad" and "rejoice" once again. This is our fourth lesson in Philippians and in each one Paul has made mention of the tremendous joy and gladness he has, even while in prison! Joy is the "mark" of a true Christian, even in the face of suffering. *

Key Point: But why? What do Christians have that gives them this irresistible "joy" that causes them to stand out so, even when life is hard? It is the grace and love of God that we receive by faith. We have the "word of life" (v. 16)! It's not a fake or manufactured joy, but it is a true joy based on the real and true promises of God! *

Joy is infectious which means that it spreads to those around them. But so does complaining! * Let's be those who stand out and spread joy so that people are "won" to Jesus. For He also said that we are to "let our light shine before men that they would see our good works and glorify the Father in heaven!" (**Matthew 5:16**)

Bring It Home

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

First

Read Philippians 2:13 and John 15:5. What must we always do if we are to bear fruit in our Christian life?

Second

Read Philippians 2:14-15 and Matthew 5:16. What do you think it looks like to "stand out" and shine in the world as a follower of Jesus?

Parent Challenge

What are some things that you should resist complaining about? Why is it good to pursue this? (see Numbers 11:1)

By His Grace,

P
aul