

Philippians 2:19-30

Standing Out for Jesus (Part 2)

Scripture: Philippians 2:19-30

Memory Verse: John 15:8 *"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

Lesson Focus: Last week Paul challenged the Philippians and us to "stand out" in the world in such a way that wins people to Jesus and brings glory to God. Following up on that this week we will look at the lives of two very ordinary guys that "stood out" in extraordinary ways. We hope the kids will be encouraged to follow their example!

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 for God

Starter Activity: Sports Hall of Fame Challenge

Consider getting the lesson started with some sports trivia. Below are several "Hall of Fame" athletes across several different pro sports. Walk through each name and have the kids guess at which sport this person was famous for. To make it a little more fun, consider bringing in items to represent each sport (i.e. baseball, football, tennis racket, basketball, hockey puck, etc.) and put them out for all of the kids to see. Then invite kids to come up and select the right item for each athlete. *

Tom Brady (football)
Serena Williams (tennis)
Michael Jordan (basketball)
Wayne Gretzky (hockey)
Mia Hamm (soccer)
Babe Ruth (baseball) *

All of these athletes "stand out" as some of the greatest of all time in their sport. You also might remember how we were challenged in our lesson from last week to "stand out" as Christians. But not as superstars seeking our own glory, but as followers of Jesus seeking His glory! *

Well, in our text today, we're going to learn about two Christians in the early church who did just that! Let's open our Bibles and learn about them!

Bible Study:

Philippians 2:19: Paul introduces us to the first Christian of our text.

Q: What's his name? A: Timothy! We know quite a bit about him from other passages of Scripture. *

We learn in **Acts 16** that he was with the apostle Paul when the church at Philippi began. We also learn from the letters that Paul wrote to him (**1 and 2 Timothy**) that he was a very young man whose mother and grandma brought him up in the faith. * I bet many of you are being brought to church by your Mom or grandma! Maybe you will become a missionary or church leader who "stands out" just like him!

It appears that Timothy has been keeping Paul company while in prison and he is planning to send him to Philippi to encourage and update them on Paul's situation. *

Philippians 2:20: Back in v. 2 Paul challenged the Philippians to be like-minded, to be true TEAM players. This is exactly how he describes Timothy. Not only that, but Timothy cares sincerely for them.

Q: What does it look like to sincerely care for someone? A: Spend time with them, pray for them, bring them gifts, etc.

Philippians 2:21: Caring and like-mindedness are perhaps where Timothy "stands out" the most! Paul appears to observe among the believers in Rome a "self-mindedness" that has him discouraged. But not with Timothy! *

Philippians 2:22: Timothy has "proven" himself to them by his service of the gospel with Paul when they planted the church in Philippi many years earlier. *

Q: What does it mean to "prove" something? A: It means to show or demonstrate that something is true. When someone makes a bold claim, you say "PROVE IT!" *

Teachers: Consider having a few wacky "would you rather" Qs ready that the kids could actually do in class. Invite a couple of volunteers up, ask them the Q, and after they answer then have the class all shout "PROVE IT!"

But let's go a little deeper into this and make this more personal:

Q: If you say that you are a Christian and I were to say to you, "PROVE IT", how might you show or demonstrate that it is true? A: You could talk about how you love Jesus, how His Word (the Bible) matters to you, how you want to grow in care for others, how you want to live your life His way and not just your way. In other words, you want to "STAND OUT" for Him! *

Philippians 2:23-24: Paul is in prison and doesn't know what will happen to him, but he has trust and confidence in the One who does know!

Philippians 2:25a: Now we are introduced to the second Christian in our text.

Q: What's his name? A: Epaphroditus (try saying that fast five times). * Unlike with Timothy, this book is the only place in the Bible that he is mentioned. However, we will learn plenty about how he "stands out" as well!

Philippians 2:25b: Epaphroditus is another TEAM player!

Q: What are some ways that Paul describes him? A: As a brother in the Lord, as a fellow worker and fellow soldier in winning people to Christ. It appears that he is from Philippi and the person that the church selected to bring gifts and support to Paul while in prison (see **Philippians 4:18**).

Philippians 2:26-27: But it appears that it was not an easy journey for he almost died of sickness on the way! * (**Teachers:** Consider doing a short little skit to help the kids understand the characters and what's going on here. Have a boy off to the side pretend to be Paul in a Roman jail and the rest of the class be the church at Philippi. * Have them select a boy to be Epaphroditus and send him to deliver gifts to Paul. But then have him pretend to be sick and almost die before he gets to Paul)

Philippians 2:28: He is all better now and Paul is sending him back presumably with the original letter that we are now reading! (**Teachers:** Wrap-up the skit by having Paul send Epaphroditus back to the church and have them all celebrate!) *

Philippians 2:29: Paul encourages the church to not only receive him back with joy, but to hold him in high esteem. Just like we hold our favorite sports athletes in high esteem and look up to them, we should do this even more so towards believers who "stand out" like Timothy and Epaphroditus!

Philippians 2:30: Epaphroditus risked his own life for the work of Christ. He didn't do it for his own glory, but for God's glory in the service of Paul and the gospel. *

Key Point: So we have learned about these two Christians who "stood out" as admirable TEAM players within the ancient church. They were not superstars seeking their own glory, but faithful followers of Jesus seeking His glory.

Q: How about you? * Remember that the church is a TEAM! Are you even on the TEAM? If not, Jesus is inviting you today to turn to Him and begin your journey of faith in Him so that you would begin to bear fruit and "stand out" as His disciple!

Q: If you are on Jesus's TEAM, how are you going to "stand out" this week? Consider being more caring of others like Timothy was. Or consider taking risks for the gospel like Epaphroditus did. But whatever you decide, remember that you are bearing fruit not for your own glory, but for Jesus!

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 2:19-21. How did Timothy "stand out" as a follower of Jesus?

Second

Read Philippians 2:25. How did Epaphroditus "stand out" as a follower of Jesus?

Parent Challenge

Read Philippians 2:29. One way that we can esteem people is by imitating them. How can you "stand out" like Timothy or Epaphroditus this week?

By His Grace,

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