

Name: _____



JOY

Philippians

Weeks 9-12

Introduction to the *Joy* series.

One of the unmistakable signs of the presence of God in someone's life is Joy. So, a gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms. Christians should be people of joy. A joyful Christian is a good representative of the good news, the gospel to a world that is often joyless.

Are we the kind of church that brings joy to people here inside our church? Are we the type of church that brings joy to those in our community on the outside of our church? Both are good questions to ask.

Philip Cole
Smithville Campus Pastor

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our daily lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your life. This understanding through application enables you to take what you are learning and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the *Christian Standard Bible* (CSB Text Edition: 2020).



USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gathering Time

On Sunday mornings we gather to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. You'll find the weekly Gathering Time sermon outlines and notes sections in this booklet.

If you need to join us online, go to cbcfamily.net and click "Watch Live"



Group Time

We learn from one another! 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. Group Time outlines are simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, short videos and other helpful resources are posted often on our 4G webpage.



God Times

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we've provided five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once your God Time is finished, pray, seeking direction for the day.



Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple Family Time devotionals. In addition, to help get the conversations flowing, video or story guide links will be posted on our 4G webpage.

cbcfamily.net/4g





Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Philippians 2:14-18

How to _____ In a _____ World.

Philippians 2:14-18

To _____ Our _____

In The Dark.

Philippians 2:15

The _____ of Light is _____

In The Dark.

Matthew 5:16

In Order to _____, You Have to _____.

Philippians 2:14-15

Philippians 2:15-16

Philippians 2:17-18

Romans 12:1

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Shine, Dark / Understand, Position / Value, Found / Glow, Grow



Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 46 for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Review last week's lesson.

What one thing did you stop or start doing this past week to make yourself more available to God's will and good purpose?

LOOK UP:

Question: Each of these squares contains a white-filled circle. Why is it easier to see the circle on the right?



1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** As we come to verses 14-18 of Philippians 2, Paul states the obvious – it's a broken world. Nothing has changed. All we need to do is turn on the television, look at our media feeds, or even just look at our own families. It's easy to see that we live in a broken, dark world. But in such darkness, light shines even more.

Paul tells the Philippians that by forgoing grumbling and arguing, by being blameless and pure, their lights will shine brightly against the backdrop of a dark world. And to see them shine with such brightness affirms his work.

To shine we must hold on to Jesus and His Word. It means being different. It means standing out. While shining brightly in the surrounding darkness will not come without a price, it is worth it.

3. Discussion:

Read Philippians 2:14-16. There's an old expression, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." How do these verses compare to the expression?

Read the rest of the sentence in Philippians 2:16.

You are holding in your hands one of the best ways we can hold "firm to the word of life." We call it our 4G Strategy (see p. 2):

- Spend time with G_____.
- G_____ with our church family.
- Connect in G_____.
- G_____ our best to God's kingdom.

Share how you are utilizing this resource each week.

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Shining brightly comes with a cost, but what a payoff!*

Read Philippians 2:17-18.

¹⁷ But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrificial service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

Because the Philippians were shining so brightly, it caused Paul to suffer, but it led to great rejoicing.

- What will you do this week to give your best to God's kingdom and shine your light for all to see in a dark world?

God Time Day 1: This Little Light of Mine



Read Matthew 5:15.

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.

Read John 1:4-5 (NLT).

⁴The Word [Jesus] gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

If you've been a Christian for long, you have likely heard the children's song "This Little Light of Mine." What is this light? The Bible describes it as the light of the Holy Spirit living in us, shining out for others to see.



Think of someone you know you've seen shine for Jesus. In what ways do they shine?

What is their relationship with God like?

Thank God for the work He does in and through them.

God Time Day 2 - Shine in the Dark



As we've been studying Philippians, you've hopefully realized that there's a reason why we are supposed to share the gospel, love others, seek unity among Christians, serve one another, do things without grumbling and complaining, and so on: Christians shine God's light! We are an example to a very dark world.



Read Philippians 2:14-15.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling and arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world...

Underline verse 14. Then ask God to help you *be blameless and pure*, shining in the darkness for Him!

God Time Day 3 - What's Your Position?



As we have already discovered, we shine because God has given us light – His light! We shine with the Holy Spirit for God's glory and to draw others to Him. We could say that Christians are lights *in* the world and Jesus is the Light *of* the World.

Think about light; very bright light is visible even in the daytime. But light is especially visible in the darkness. A good flashlight helps the one who holds it, but it also helps those who walk nearby.



Reread Philippians 2:14-15 from Day2. Now add verse 16.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling and arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, ¹⁶by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing.



In verse 15 circle the words "so that" and read the rest of the verse again.

Finish this sentence in your own words: "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that..."

How do we do this? Say the first part of verse 16 in your own words. Compare the "word of life" to the Word who gave life. (John 1:4-5 from Day 1)

Christians are called to be Christ's representatives on earth – demonstrating His love, compassion, patience, hope, peace, etc. We are also called to declare the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done. These are all ways we can shine His light.



Do you live your life as Christ's representative? Are you a good flashlight holder who shines His light, so others won't stumble in the dark?

God Time Day 4 - Shine in the Dark



The passage we've been studying in Philippians 2:14-15 tells us that we shine like stars. We've learned that this is because we have God's Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us, shining outward.



Read Matthew 5:16.
In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



Circle what this passage in Matthew says others will see when we let our light shine.

Underline what the intended result of seeing these good works will be.

Yes, the intended result is that others will see our good works and then give glory to God. We understand that these good works don't save us or add to our standing with God, they are simply the result of having the Lord in our lives. We do them because of what He's done for us.

All Believers are given the Holy Spirit when they are saved. This happens immediately upon trusting in Jesus and what He has done. If we truly have the Spirit dwelling in us, we will shine. Yet sometimes we allow things like sin, pride, work, distractions, busyness, and so on to get in the way of shining the Lord's light to its full extent. The Bible calls this "*quenching the Spirit.*" (See 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NKJV))



Check Up: On a scale of 1-5, how well are you shining His light in this dark world?

Low Beam	1	2	3	4	5	High Beam
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What do you let get in the way of shining His light?

Make a list and burn it.

Watch the light overpower all the stuff that gets in the way!

God Time Day 5 Grow to Glow



Question: Do Christians have to *try* to shine?

It's a good question. The light of Christ dwells within us, so in some sense, we just shine. But, as we discussed yesterday, we can quench God's work in us. When we do that, it's like we have a flashlight with black tape over the beam. But when we invest in our relationship with God and adjust our attitudes and actions, allowing God to remove the tape and clean the glass, we align more fully with the "shiny" work He's doing in our lives!

It's also a bit like a glow-in-the-dark toy. When we hold that toy up to a light bulb, it absorbs the light and then glows in the dark. Likewise, when we hold ourselves up to Jesus and grow in our relationship with Him, we glow.



Read Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-9.
¹Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, ²and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth...

Underline who we are supposed to imitate.



Circle how we are to walk.

Put a box around what the "*fruit of the light*" consists of.

As Christians, we are to live a life of sacrifice, laying down our own will to follow God's. His will is about expanding His kingdom. We grow in fruitfulness so we might share Christ and bring others into His fold. We grow to glow.

1. **Grow** - Choose one activity that will help you invest in your relationship with God. (E.g., personal worship, starting a prayer journal, etc.) Add it to your daily routine.



2. **Glow** - Choose one person that you want to share Christ with. Pray for an opportunity and prepare to share. Who is your one?

Family Time



Main Idea:

Trust

**Key Verse: Titus 1:9 (ESV)**

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

**Experiment:**

You will need a medium-sized bucket with a strong handle, a drop cloth (unless outside), water, and possibly a mop.

Lay down a drop cloth if inside. You will not need this if you go outside. You will also need to make sure there is plenty of room above your head so you can swing the bucket.

Give the bucket to one of the family members and have them swing the bucket by holding the bucket at their side, using their dominant hand. The motion they need to master is swinging the bucket in a circle, from down by their side, straight up, and then back down (pivoting their shoulder so the bucket goes behind them). Do this several times, so they feel the bucket pulling away from them as they swing it.

Now, fill the bucket a little over halfway with water.

Have the swinger hold the bucket at their side, just like they did when it was empty. Then, they will begin the swinging motion, but don't start slow. They need to keep the bucket moving fast in a circle.

**Ask:**

- What do you think would have happened if the swinger slowed down with water in the bucket?
- How much water did the swinger lose?
- What surprised you about the experiment?

**Read:**

Philippians 2:14-18

**Discussion:**

What do we need to hold firm to?

What does Paul say we need to do?

**Pray:**

*Lord, help us to trust Your Word to be true. Help us to hold tight to the things we need to hold tight to. Allow us to be glad and rejoice in the things you want us to rejoice in.
Amen.*

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