

Discovering ways to share and be the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Being and sharing  
the good news

## REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

**Where and how did you experience God last week?**

## WORD LYFE SHINE

Christ followers are called to live distinctly different lives, to be more aware of the presence of God in our lives.

## READ

### † Philippians 2.12-18

## Lights in the World

<sup>12</sup> My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. <sup>13</sup> God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing. <sup>15</sup> Then you will be the pure and innocent children of God. You live among people who are crooked and evil, but you must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the people of this

world, <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the message that gives life. Then on the day when Christ returns, I can take pride in you. I can also know that my work and efforts were not useless.

<sup>17</sup> Your faith in the Lord and your service are like a sacrifice offered to him. And my own blood may have to be poured out with the sacrifice. If this happens, I will be glad and rejoice with you. <sup>18</sup> In the same way, you should be glad and rejoice with me.

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

*'The present moment holds infinite riches beyond your wildest dreams, but you will only enjoy them to the extent of your faith and love... to discover God in the smallest and most ordinary things, as well as in the greatest, is to possess a rare and sublime faith.'*

Jean Pierre de Caussade

## REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ At the beginning of the passage, Paul is focusing on 'maturity'. Even though he is absent, they as a community will have to take on responsibility to think through what the gospel means for them where they are. V12 is often misunderstood – salvation is God's work, from start to finish. But the Philippians will need to work out what this means in their daily lives in practice. Paul

may not be around to advise them, they may not see him again - they need to get on with being God's people.

- ▶ Shining as lights (v12) – as a beacon of hope, as a sign of God's beauty in a dark and twisted world. Paul is quoting from Daniel 12.3 which speaks of 'the wise' (Israelites who were skilled in knowing and applying God's law) - shining to the world around (as Daniel himself did – Dan 1.10; 2.46-48)
- ▶ Day of Christ' (v16) refers to the day when God will bring the whole cosmos to justice and peace, through the return of Jesus as Lord. Paul of course, does not know if he will be alive to see this day, but has confidence to know that Jesus will come again.
- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ In what ways should Christ followers live differently?
- ▶ In what ways are you conscious of God's presence with you in daily life?

## RESPOND

Shine challenge: As a group, create a challenge that will help you to be more aware of God and living each day distinctly different.

### Challenge ideas:

If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

Don't try to be heroic and just do the things you normally do. This is not about doing more for God, but bringing God's presence into the ordinary things that you do each day.

### Today

Choose one day this week to try and live with Jesus, learning to do some of the things we already do differently – with God.

#### 01 Sleep

In biblical culture, the day begins with sleep. Get a good night's sleep, avoid late night coffee and TV. Take a few moments to review the day, ask forgiveness where necessary and thank God for blessings.

#### 02 Waking

As you open your eyes, allow your mind to focus on God. Acknowledge your dependence on him, tell him your concerns, invite him to spend the day with you.

#### 03 Washing

Make washing a moment of prayer. Ask the Spirit to refresh you and cleanse any impurity as you wash.

#### 04 Eating

Food is a gift from God and we are commanded to enjoy it and be thankful. Use this as a prompt to thank God for everyone and thing which nourishes you as a whole person

#### 05 Working

Whether parenting, working in an office, a factory or at home, at university or other situation, we can ask God to partner with us as we work throughout the day. It is helpful to use breaks in the day to act as reminders to be present to God and ask him to fill you with the Spirit. Making coffee, using the stairs or lift or simply looking out the window for a couple of minutes are good opportunities.

## 06 TV/Newspapers/Web

Are opportunities to thank God for technology that allows us to connect with people. When you connect with friends on Facebook – pray for them and post a comment of appreciation and love. As you read newspapers and watch the news – tell God about things that concern you.

## 07 Exercise

If exercise is part of your day, invite the presence of God. Thank God for the ability to exercise, use your body, enjoy sport.

## Other areas to consider

How will you drive today? How will you react to interruptions or inconvenience? How will you engage with people you meet today?

**Don't try to be heroic, just do the things you normally do. This is not about doing more for God, but bringing God's presence into the ordinary things that you do each day.**

## GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you focus on living one day this week with God. As a reminder, you could agree to do this at a set time e.g. when you eat.

## Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

## More resources on 'Word Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Andy Croft and Joe Davis
- Read article on 'Mission in a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Faith Society'
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Billy Graham and John Wesley
- Recommended reading *Storylines* by Andy Croft and Mike Pilavachi