



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of October 16, 2023

1. Read Philippians 2:12-18. Have two different people in your group read the passage of Scripture in two different Bible translations. Listen closely and pick up the big ideas.
2. What did Paul mean by “...*work out your own salvation*” in verse 12? Is he suggesting that we need to earn our salvation with human effort? If not, then what does it mean to “work out” one’s salvation?

What are some tangible ways you should be working out your salvation in everyday experiences?

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3. In light of verse 13, how would you explain the relationship of the Christian exercising effort in the Christian life— and God providing His power and assistance? (see also Colossians 1:29)
4. The Philippian church was growing, healthy, and dynamic. Good things were happening and outsiders were coming to faith in Jesus. But what were they struggling with internally, according to verse 14?

What are some of the things that today’s Christians grumble and complain about when it comes to church? What does God think about people who stir up trouble in His family (Proverbs 6:19)?

5. According to verses 14-15, why is an argumentative, grumbling church such a serious problem? What famous metaphor did Jesus give to His followers in Matthew 5:14-16? How does Paul echo this idea in Ephesians 5:8?
6. What does it mean to “hold forth” the word of life? How do Christians do that in today’s world? Is it words— or actions — or a combination of both? Explain your answer.
7. Could you explain the gospel message to someone in a 30-second elevator ride? What is the gospel message in 3 sentences or less? *HINT: The gospel is NOT your personal testimony of coming to faith.* (For additional help, read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and John 3:16).
8. Of course you want to make JESUS pleased with your Christian life and testimony. But who else can you fill with joy with your faithful, Christian service? (see verse 16 and Hebrews 13:17).