

Engage Bible Study Guide Session 18 | Philippians 2:12-30 | January 25, 2021

>> OPEN

- Who would you say are the people you would call spiritual family? In other words, who are the people that really encourage you in your faith?
- How connected are you to the wider church? Have you spent time engaging with our synod or national ELCA bodies?

>> DIG

- In 2:13 Paul notes that God gives us the "desire and power to do what pleases him." In your case, what do you think that looks like on a practical level? If you were mentoring a new Christian, how would you describe what that looks like?
- In 2:15 Paul says that we are to shine like bright lights. What other passages from scripture come to mind when you think of shining like a light? How might you shine in our current cultural moment?
- How often are you worried about the path forward in your faith? What consolation is it to know that your salvation is secure regardless of your next step?
- Have you ever been in a relationship similar to Paul and Timothy where someone mentored you in the faith? What was that like? Do you think you could do the same for someone else?
- What do you think are the qualifications for ministry that operate under the surface for many church leaders and call committees (call committees are chosen representatives of a local congregation that searches for a pastor)? Do you think that being like a shepherd often ranks as high as it should?
- This past year has certainly given us a close-up to disease and death in our church family. Who are the people you have walked with and that have walked alongside of you this year?
- What does it mean to you to rejoice in your suffering?

>> APPLY

- What impact would Prince of Peace have in our community if our paradigm for ministry was a shepherd with her sheep? How would it be different than today?
- How might your prayer life be enriched by the use of a feeling wheel? As you use it, what emotions are you holding back from God?