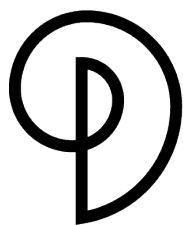


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Shine

October 29 & 30, 2022

Long story short, Pastor Jeff is our pastor today because of three college fraternity brothers. Their faith shined, illuminating for Jeff the kind of life he wanted. Jeff found that life in Jesus.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Paul knew that the believers in Philippi were being persecuted for professing their faith, but rather than instructing these new Christians to hide and save themselves, Paul instructed them on how to be a bold witness to Christ by the way that they lived. And there's one more piece of context that's important to know. Paul believed that Jesus' return to earth was imminent. And that helps to explain Paul's sense of urgency in this passage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Re-read Philippians 2:12.** Paul proclaims that salvation is God's work, and it's a gift. Do you have a personal "salvation" story? If so, share it. Have you just "always" been a Christian? What has that looked like in your life? Either way, share about one or two specific ways you have "shown the results of your salvation" through the way you live your life.
- **Re-read Philippians 2:13.** According to Paul, God is transforming our hearts to want what God wants and to love what God loves. Now read Galatians 5:22-23. We are all works in progress. Which "fruit of the Spirit" comes naturally to you? Which do you struggle with? Share stories that illustrate your answers.
- **Re-read Philippians 2:14-15.** Paul reminds the Philippians that how they live is a witness to the people around them. Who in your life "shines" brightly? How have they witnessed to you? Does your life shine brightly enough against the culture around you to compel others to want to know more about Jesus?
- **Re-read Philippians 2:16-18.** The early Christians lived in expectation of Jesus' return. But they didn't sit on a mountaintop and wait. They lived lives that they believed would honor their King. Do you do that? What is one way you can do that this week?

CHALLENGE: Live as if Jesus will return tomorrow. Live as a bright light in a world of darkness. Live so others see peace and aliveness in you so clearly that they seek out for themselves what they see in you.