

“Living a Genuine Christian Life”
Phil. 2:12-18 (Aug. 28, 2011)

1. Always be careful to follow God’s Word. (12)
 - Correct application.
 - Correct attitude.

2. Always cooperate with God’s work in you. (13)
 - He is ready to give you the desire to obey Him.
 - He is ready to give you the power to obey Him.

3. Always resist complaining and arguing. (14)

4. Always live with a clear conscience. (15)
 - Be clean in a filthy world.
 - Be a light in a dark world.

5. Always complete the work God has for you with joy. (16-18)
 - A race to win. (16)
 - A drink to be poured out. (17a)
 - A party to celebrate. (17b- 18)

Application:

1. Review the various descriptions of the Christian life. What needs more attention in your life?
2. How joyful are you in serving Jesus? Discuss as a group ways to increase a spirit of joyfulness in your life.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
"Living a Genuine Christian Life"
Philippians 2:12-18 (Aug. 28, 2011)

1. Were your parents or grandparents Christian? What do you think are the unique challenges being raised in a Christian home? What makes it difficult for kids raised in Christian homes to really make the decision for themselves?
2. How does Paul describe obedience in Phil. 2:12? Why is it more difficult to obey when you are alone and away from Christian influences? What is our responsibility and what is God's responsibility in the area of salvation? (Eph. 2:8-10)
3. According to Phil. 2:12b, what should be our attitude as we are obeying the Lord? Discuss the meaning of the "fear of the Lord." (2 Cor. 7:1; Prov. 1:7) What is the role of "trembling" before the Lord? (Isa. 66:2; Matt. 6:13)
4. Who is really doing the work of salvation in you? (Phil. 2:13) (Also Eph. 3:7, 20; Col. 1:29) Have you ever lost your desire to obey Christ? What did David pray in Psalm 119:36?
5. What can get in the way of a life of obedience? (Phil. 2:14) Discuss the attitudes of the people of Israel in the wilderness. (Psalm 106:24-25) What do we have in common with them? What is the difference between grumbling and disputes? Is this a problem in your life? Ask a friend how you come across.
6. If you are living a genuine Christian life you will have a consistency in your life. Paul describes such a person as "above reproach." None of us are perfect, so what does it mean? (Phil. 2:15) How does Paul describe the world?(Also Prov. 2:13-15) What did Jesus say about people who were walking in disobedience? (Matt. 17:17)
7. What does it mean to be "innocent?" (Phil. 2:15) (Rom. 16:19) How does Jesus describe the Christ-followers in a dark world? (Matt. 5:14, 16) What does Paul say? (Eph. 5:8)
8. There are three descriptions of the Christian life in Phil. 2:16-18. First, it is a "race to win." Have you ever been in a race? What kind of effort did you have to put out? Compare this concept with the Christian life. Paul also says it is like "pouring out a drink offering." Have you ever served in such a way that you felt spent? (2 Cor. 12:15) Discuss the "joy in serving Jesus." (Phil. 2:17-18) What tends to rob you of your joy?
9. Thank the Lord for His work in you and through you. Pray for His desires and power to be real this week in your life.