



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions
Sacred Joy: A study of Philipians
November 22, 2009
Philipians 2.15

1. Paul longs for the church at Philippi to *appear as lights in the world* (2.15). What does this mean? Also look at Matthew 5.13-16.
2. What does it mean to *Worship God*? This is the first challenge of how your Christmas/Advent can look different and how you can *appear as lights in the world* during this season. Look at Daniel 5.17-23; John 4.20-26, Luke 2.19; Matthew 12.34 and Romans 12.1-2 to help your discussion on worship. A threat to worshipping Jesus this season is busyness. READ Luke 10.38-42. This season will be filled with lots of stuff. There will be lots of things to do. The question is *what will take priority? Will Jesus or all the stuff? Will you be worried and bothered by many things?* Why not make this season about the *one necessity and choose the good part?* Oh that we would worship Jesus fully this season.
3. Discuss the second challenge for this coming season, *Love People*. Who are we suppose to love? Look at Leviticus 19.18; John 13.34-35; Matthew 5.43-48; Ephesians 5.25-29; Proverbs 17.17 and 1 John 4.19-21.
A threat that is real for this time of year (and really any time) is not willing to love when it is hard and risky – Luke 10.30-37: This Samaritan is an outcast to society and disliked by many and is traveling down a risky road. To walk down it is one thing (risky) and then to stop is another (very risky). The easy thing to do would be to mind your own business like the religious people did so you wouldn't risk your own life. He chooses the not-so-easy-love and helps this complete stranger by cleaning up his wounds and bandaging him up. He took him to an inn and took care of him. We usually choose easy love. Loving those who love us. Jesus says, *what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.* Luke 6.32-33. Oh that we would not be prejudice in our love. That we would love even our enemies being merciful as the Father has been merciful to us!
What are some ways we can show the love of Christ this Advent season?
4. The third challenge for this coming season is to *Spend Less* and the fourth is *Give More*. Some will choose inactiveness and idleness this season. I love what Darrell Bock says, *One often hears that the task of dealing with pain (needs) in the world is so vast that we do not know where to begin or how we can even hope to make a dent in what needs to be done. Such thinking can become an excuse for inaction. If I cannot know where to begin, I will not even start to help, because if I do, I will be overwhelmed. A better attitude is to pitch in where one feels a sense and ability to help. Maybe I cannot help everywhere, but I can help somewhere and try to do a meaningful work of service. Being a neighbor does not require meeting every need of which I become aware, but of becoming one piece of a large puzzle that helps meaningfully in a specific context.* Let's be a piece of the puzzle this Advent season. What can you do as a group to model these challenges? Could we make gifts or give



the gift of presence this season instead of spending money? Could we redistribute our funds toward something or someone else in need? Read 2 Corinthians 9.6-8; Titus 3.14; Acts 4.32-35 and Matthew 6.2-4, 19-21.

Pray that we would shine like stars in this crooked and perverse world during this Advent season. That we would *worship God, love people, spend less and give more* for the glory of God.