

1. Description of the Philippians folder

The attached Spiritual Disciplines folder, “Live as Courageous Disciples, Shining Like Stars in the World,” has been updated for preparation for the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in early July. However, its use can go far beyond any season. The purpose as this folder on Paul’s book to the Philippians is for all of the church in whatever age and time.

The book of Philippians is one of Paul’s most personal letters. Amidst persecution by civil authorities, Paul helped found this church. Experiencing hardship, in chapter 2 Paul writes one of the most inspirational verses on servanthood. He instructs us not to look out for our interests, but to the interests of others, “Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

This letter on “living as courageous disciples” expresses the joy and challenge of maturing in the Christian life. And the opportunity—that we can “Shine like Stars in the World”. (Phil. 2:15). What a witness we can share. Verse by verse we receive rich counsel for the Christian life. “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Phil 2: 13).

Besides the folder on Philippians, there are Bible study questions for use by individuals or small groups. We express our appreciation to Vince Cable, pastor of the Uniontown Church of the Brethren for writing this guide to help us to go deeper into the meaning of this letter. We pray this folder and questions might help us discover a closer walk with Christ daily.