

Live as Courageous Disciples Shining Like Stars in the World

What joy from a life formed by Christ rings out from the pages of Paul's letter to the Philippians! Written in prison in his latter years, Paul speaks of Christian maturity leading to "shining like stars in the world" (2:15). The call then today is to live as courageous disciples.

In her suggested spiritual preparation for 2014 Annual Conference, Moderator Nancy Heishman speaks of living out the beginning of our denominational vision statement, which is: "**Through scripture Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples in word and action.**" And out of that fearless, trusting, heartfelt searching of the scriptures, my prayer is that we would hear Jesus calling us to live a kind of courageous discipleship that is expressed in word and action.

In this spiritual disciplines folder we are going to look at Paul's letter to the Philippians to do just that. A lifetime of growing in spiritual maturity led the Apostle Paul to great themes in this letter where he shares about growing in Christ and in Christian community.

Being a short letter, this spiritual disciplines folder will have just a few verses for each day to read and meditate on and pray. The prayer pattern below can assist you. In the insert you find possibilities to take your next incremental steps to live as courageous disciples.

For each day, we suggest a prayer pattern:

- 1) Release all to God and begin to feel God's love.
- 2) Slowly read the text and reread it perhaps aloud. Ponder its meaning and see what words call out to you.
- 3) Have prayers that focus on God's call to live as a courageous disciple and pray for God's help to live by that word today.
- 4) In solitude, listen to God speak to you.

May the grace of Christ be with you as we strive to live as courageous disciples and shine like stars in the world. Together as the Christian community we hold one another up in prayer.

Mon.: 6/9 - ...”servants of Christ Jesus”... Phil. 1:1-2
Tues.: 6/10 - “I thank my God every time I remember...” Phil. 1:3-5
Wed.: 6/11 - “I am now confident of this...” Phil. 1:6-7
Thurs.: 6/12 - “For God is my witness” Phil. 1:8-11
Fri.: 6/13 - “helped spread the Gospel...” Phil. 1:12-14
Sat.: 6/14 - “These proclaim Christ out of love...” Phil. 1:15-18a

Sun: 6/15 – “by speaking with all boldness, Christ...” Phil. 1:18b-20
Mon.: 6/16 - “For to me, living is Christ,...” Phil. 1:21-26
Tues.: 6/17 - “Striving side by side with one mind...” Phil. 1:27-28
Wed.: 6/18 - “Granted you the privilege of suffering Phil. 1:29-30
Thurs.: 6/19 - “hearts encouraged, united in love...” Phil. 2:1-3
Fri.: 6/20 - “Let the same mind be in you...” Phil. 2:4-5
Sat.: 6/21 – “but emptied himself, taking the form...” Phil. 2:6-8

Sun.: 6/22 – “So that at the Name of Jesus” Phil. 2:9-11
Mon.: 6/23 – “Work out your salvation with fear...” Phil. 2:12-13
Tues.: 6/24 – “Shine like Stars in the world” Phil. 2:14-15
Wed.: 6/25 - “Holding fast to the word of life...rejoice” Phil. 2:16-18
Thurs.: 6/26 - “Cheered by news of you” Phil. 2:19-21
Fri.: 6/27 - “like a son with a father, he has served...” Phil. 2:22-24
Sat.: 6/28 - “he has been longing for all of you” Phil. 2:25-27

Sun.: 6/29 – “in order that you may rejoice...”	Phil. 2:28-30
Colossians 3:12-17	
Mon.: 6/30 – “Finally, ... rejoice in the Lord ...”	Phil. 3:1-4
Tues.: 7/1 – “... as to righteousness under the law...”	Phil. 3:5-6
Wed.: 7/2 – “Let the word of God dwell in you richly”	Phil. 3:7-9
Thurs.: 7/3 – “I want to know Christ and the power...”	Phil. 3:10-11
Fri.: 7/4 – “...but I press on to make it my own...”	Phil. 3:12-14
Sat.: 7/5 – “...be of the same mind...hold fast...”	Phil. 3:15-16

Sun.: 7/6 – “He will transform the body...”	Phil. 3:17-21
Mon. 7/7 – “Stand firm in the Lord in this way ...”	Phil. 4:1
Tues.: 7/8 – “Be of the Same Mind as in the Lord... “	Phil. 4:2-3
Wed: 7/9 – “Rejoice in the Lord Always, again I will...”	Phil. 4:4-7
Thurs: 7/10 – “Finally, beloved, whatever is true...”	Phil. 4:8-9
Fri.: 7/11 – “I can do all things through Christ...”	Phil. 4:10-14
Sat.: 7/12 – “And my God will fully satisfy every need”	Phil. 4:15-20

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This special edition of a spiritual disciplines folder is created for heart preparation for Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Sunday and daily texts are from Paul’s letter to the Church at Philippi. Vince Cable, pastor of the Uniontown Church has written study questions for small groups or classes which are found on the Springs web site.

In Springs of Living Water, we are in a partnership with Christ and with others seeking renewal of the church as an ongoing process of spiritual growth. Our hope is to live a Christ-centered mission as individuals and as the church. For more information see www.churchrenewalservant.org or email davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org.

Live as Courageous Disciples



Shining Like Stars in the World

Preparation for
Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
Columbus, Ohio - 2014
Springs of Living Water
Christ Centered Church Renewal

Living as Courageous Disciples Shining Like Stars in the World

For the next 5 weeks our hope is that we will delve deeply into the theme of Living as Courageous Disciples and shining like stars in the world. What message does the Apostle Paul have for us as we look at themes in this letter? How do we live as courageous disciples today?

Below are spiritual disciplines. Spend time in prayer discerning the next step that will help you grow in your spiritual walk. Practicing these disciplines, let us experience the invitation of the Good News of the Gospel and with God's help live as a courageous disciple.

Using this theme, circle the next way you feel called to grow in your faith

1. Daily read and meditate on a scripture and listen to its message to live as a courageous disciple today.
2. Weekly participate in Sunday School and worship.
3. In what way do you feel called to live as a courageous disciple?

What do you want to give up? _____

What do you feel called to take up? _____

4. What way do you desire to grow in Christian maturity and joy?
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List of Spiritual Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study,
Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service,
Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration.

I am asking God's help as I make this commitment _____

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