

# Rising Above: Insights From the Book of Philippians

Week 4

“Star Power”

Philippians 2:12-18

## OPEN WITH PRAYER

**GETTING STARTED:** Who are your favorite movie, tv, or music stars? Why do you think people are drawn to them? If you could be a star for a day, who would you be?

## LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD

**Together, read** Philippians 2:12-18 **together**

1. Notice that Paul tells the Philippian Christians to “work out” what God has worked in (namely our salvation). How does this help us not become people who work *in order to earn* our salvation?
2. Where are you tempted to grumble or complain? Why do you think Paul tells the Philippians to refrain from those actions?
3. Read Deuteronomy 32:1-5 where Moses criticizes the people of Israel for being a “perverse and crooked generation.” In verse 15, Paul refers to this verse and describes the world, not the people of God. Why do you think he does this? (One thought is that Paul is generally happy with the Philippians’ life of faith.) Do you feel like today we live in the midst of a “perverse and crooked generation”? Or is that a better description of the contemporary church?
4. Paul tells us in 2:5-11 to “have the same mind” as Christ and then calls the Christian community “to shine like stars in the sky.” How does following Christ help us to give light to others? (Compare Matthew 5:14-16.)

## **LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”**

1. Greg talked about the college team that went to Mexico this month to build houses. Have you been involved in local or global mission? What was your experience?
2. What is one way in your everyday life that you as a group, or as individuals, can serve others around you and demonstrate your “star power” and, in that way, ultimately give glory to God?

## **SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)**

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.