

# Shine Bright Like A Diamond

2025-10-05 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



## Philippians 2:12-16

### FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

#### WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

A diamond is just carbon that went through heat, pressure, and depth. Pastor Matt used that as the picture of what God does in a person. He opened by making peace with complexity: approaching God is simple, but knowing him is not, and that is true of anything worth knowing. The text was Philippians 2:12-16, where Paul says God is at work in you, and then gives a surprisingly small instruction: stop grumbling and arguing, so that you shine like stars in the sky. One detail matters. A star's shine, from where we stand, is reflected light. The point was never your own wattage.

### To get started

- What is something worth doing that turned out to be more complicated than you expected?

### Looking back at the message

The opening about complexity is not filler. It sets up everything else.

- 1 Pastor Matt said approaching God is simple but knowing him is infinitely complex. Which half do you find harder, the simple start or the complex knowing?
- 2 Pastor Matt said if you can be okay with a little complexity, you are on your way to a vibrant connection with God. How does that fit your experience so far?
- 3 Being humbled is like carbon becoming a diamond: heat and pressure, but a beautiful result. What did you make of calling that process beautiful? OPTIONAL

## Looking at the passage

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Read Philippians 2:12-16 aloud. Verse 14 is unglamorous and specific.

- 4 Read Philippians 2:12-13. What are we told to work out, and what does verse 13 say God is already doing in us?
- 5 Verse 14 says do everything without grumbling or arguing. Of all the sins Paul could name, why do you think he singled out those two?
- 6 Verse 15 says shine among them like stars in the sky. Where does the light we see from a star actually come from, and what does that mean for us?
- 7 If salvation is a gift we did not earn, what does it mean to work it out with fear and trembling?

## Bringing it home

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Grumbling is the most ordinary sin in the room. Treat it as such.

- 8 Grumbling and arguing are unglamorous, everyday sins. Where do they show up in your normal week?
- 9 Pastor Matt said pressure is part of how God builds capacity in you, not proof that things are going wrong. How has pressure felt lately, and does that reframe it?
- 10 If your shine is reflected light, what changes about the effort of trying to be a good example?
- 11 What is God forming in you right now that you wish he would finish faster? OPTIONAL

## The group together

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Complaining is contagious in a group. Say so.

- 12 Grumbling spreads through a group fast. How does it spread, and what actually stops it?
- 13 Paul says believers shine like stars in a dark sky. What would it look like for this group to be noticeably different in a dark stretch?
- 14 Who in this group is under pressure right now that we could stand with instead of advising?

### BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you could stop complaining about this week, and what would you do instead?

## You might pray about

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- For patience with complexity rather than demanding simplicity
- For those under pressure who feel it is pointless
- For grumbling to be replaced with something better
- For light that is reflected rather than manufactured