

Shining Like Stars

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

We all want to be exemplary students—to excel in the classroom and in clinical learning experiences. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he also encourages Christians to live exemplary lives, "like stars in the sky."

[Read Philippians 2:12-16.](#)

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Discuss:

- What is God's role, and what is our role, in how we live out our salvation as Christians?
- Why do you think Paul specifically focuses on not grumbling or arguing as the key steps to living an exemplary life (v.14)?
- What do you think it means to shine "like stars in the sky" (v.15)? Have you seen someone do this in an exemplary way in nursing school or in a clinical setting?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Because of the constant stress of nursing school, it may be easy to fall into grumbling, arguing, or complaining, rather than trusting in God. In what situations have you noticed yourself grumbling this year? Memorize verse 14 and remind yourself of this command throughout the week.
- *External:* This passage encourages us to shine like stars in the midst of a warped generation.
 - o As a group, make a chart with two columns. In one column, identify warped and crooked actions you have noticed in your nursing school or clinical settings. In the other column, identify a concrete step to "shine like stars" in response to that action. For example, one item might read "nurses gossiping about colleagues" and a corresponding item might read "choosing to use only affirming words when interacting with other nurses."
 - o Ask each person to pick 1-2 actions to practice this week in their classes and clinicals.

