

1. This passage begins with 'therefore' (v12). What is the connection between the verses before this and the verses that follow?
2. Is there a difference between 'working for' our salvation and 'working out' our salvation? What does it mean to 'work out' our salvation?
3. We are to work out our salvation with 'fear and trembling'. (v12) What does this not mean? What might it mean?
4. What encouragement is v13 in working out our salvation?
5. What do you think 'shining like stars' means? In what ways did the Philippians shine like stars? (v14&15)
6. Are they commanded to shine like stars? What are they commanded to do? What is the connection between what they are commanded to do and shining like stars?

7. Is it enough to shine like stars? What else does Paul say they are doing? What does this mean for us?
8. 'Everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.' (v21) How can we stop ourselves falling into this trap?
9. What are the interests of Jesus Christ?
10. How can we develop a loving concern for Christ's people?
11. Epaphroditus served Christ even though it was costly. Where are we inclined to stay inside our comfort zones in our faith? Think of several examples.
12. How does what we see in these verses, in the rest of Philippians 2 and in Matthew 25:23 encourage us to step outside our comfort zone?