

Bible Study Questions
October 4, 2020
Sean Miller
Joy Ride: With Expectation
Philippians 3:15-21

Share about a time when you were not a good example to your kids, parents, friends or whomever you choose. Could you say, like Paul, “follow my example?”

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. What are your initial reflections?

Paul has already shared how he gave up his pattern of living (3:5-11) for something better. Then in 3:18-19, he reminds the Philippians about the pattern of life that many live all around them. What are the patterns we see in today’s culture that we should avoid in order to pattern our lives after Jesus? Which patterns do you personally struggle with the most?

What do you think of the statement: We don’t read the Scriptures for information but for transformation? Are you experiencing transformation in your engagement with the Bible? Why or why not?

How did you answer the question: Specifically, what is your expectation for God, for the Church, and for your own spiritual life in this world?

Sean defined Expectation as: When we have a strong belief that something will happen or be true in the future. It’s when we believe and even hope that someone will or should achieve something. With that in mind, what is your expectation—what is your hope?

How would you describe the pattern of Jesus? Sean gave some examples: the Sermon on the Mount, the Fruit of the Spirit, the life of Jesus we see in the four Gospels and Philippians 2:5-11. Do any of these resonate with you? Do any challenge you?

Discuss how you feel about the following:

- Maybe the pattern of Jesus looks like that. Giving to those who don’t have. Giving to those who don’t like you.
- Maybe the pattern looks like showing remarkable generosity toward one another in the Church and all our neighbors around us because we know how generous God has been with us.
- Showing our kids what Jesus looks like.
- Maybe it’s also recognizing the image of God in every single person and choosing to treat them with respect and kindness as we meet people where they are.
- In the months ahead, what pattern will we show our children? Our grandchildren?

What did you think of Sean’s description of citizenship? How have you thought about that in the past?

Sean asked: How can the Kingdom of Jesus break in, through Saratoga Federated Church, for such a time as this—even in this challenging election season? How would you answer that question?