

ABOUT THE SERMON SERIES

THEME

Citizens of the Kingdom

SCRIPTURE

“Live as citizens who reflect the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come to see you or whether I stay away, I’ll hear all about you. I’ll hear that you are firmly united in spirit, united in fighting for the faith that the Good News brings.” PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

Philippians 1:27–2:11

SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY

Philippians 1:27 (NOG) instructs Christians how to live as citizens of the Kingdom. We will explore that scripture verse and focus on what we learn about the characteristics of Citizens of the Kingdom. Identifying these characteristics will challenge us to accept our responsibility to be good citizens, caring for each other and paying special attention to our personal support of World Services. As we share this Scripture, we will be reminded that we are part of a worldwide Army, we are global Christian citizens.

WEEK 1. TRANSFORMED LIFESTYLES

“Live as citizens who reflect the Good News about Christ.” PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Explore: Are you a Citizen of the Kingdom? Are you willing to be transformed? How can we tell that you belong to Jesus? What do we have in common in every country, as Citizens of the Kingdom, that is a reflection of the Gospel?

WEEK 2. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE

“Whether I come to see you or whether I stay away, I’ll hear all about you.” PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Explore: We are expected to do something as Christians; we are expected to be activists for the cause of Christ. It is normal for others, even in distant places, to be interested in how we serve because we share the same mission and we all want it to advance.

WEEK 3. WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

“I’ll hear that you are firmly united in spirit.” PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Explore: What evidence can you give of being united with other Christians? Our unity is a witness to the world; it gives evidence to the world of the reality of God’s presence, as we care for each other. Jesus prayed, “May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me,” (John 17:23 NLT). What does the world “know” about God’s love from observing our Christian community?

WEEK 4. EXTRAORDINARILY MISSION MINDED

“United in fighting for the faith that the Good News brings.” PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Explore: Salvation Army ministry gives us the privilege and responsibility of being fully engaged in the mission to which we have been called. Have you been called? We are an Army, “fighting for the faith that the Good News brings,” all around the world. How do we overcome what might become routine, and instead embrace World Services as a vital ministry?

ADDITIONAL

At the end of each sermon are suggestions for a prayer song or chorus, a song for concluding worship, as well as the printed text of the scripture reading in the recommended version.