

LIKE
STARS
IN THE SKY

Like Stars in the Sky
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Scripture: Galatians 5:13–15

Graphic: Title slide for “Like Stars in the Sky”

[This week, we celebrate Independence Day and the birth of our nation.]

The **United** States of America

[It doesn't seem like we're very united these days. Everything and everybody is divided into one of two buckets based on whatever view you hold on a topic. It's either a red or blue one, right or left.]

[Nobody's happy about it. Well, normal people aren't. Some people love the division. There's a lot of money to be made and power to be preserved keeping us divided.]

Suspicion is profitable.

Fear is profitable.

Division is profitable.

[If you convince me there's a group I should be afraid of and promise to protect me for a vote and a donation, then I'm going to give you a donation and a vote, so you'll protect me from those racist Republicans and those socialist Democrats. We know that's not true. It's just so easy to get pushed into those corners.]

[Neither side thinks the other side pays their fair share. But nobody will define the fair share. The problem is that it leaves us all less inclined to share. You can raise a lot of money on the far left and far right. But...]

You don't **solve problems** there.

You won't find **Jesus** there.

[Because you can't love well from there. It's why I do my best to ensure you won't catch us there either.]

[Why do we so easily fall for the rhetoric that divides us?]