

## Key Scriptures

*Philippians 3:7-14 - "I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* Philippians 3:7-14 NLT

*"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.... But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."* John 14:15-17,26 NLT

*But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mathew 20:25-28 NLT

## Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What stood out most to you from the message? What are you challenged to do as a result?
- Talk about a time where you didn't have spiritual room. What happened to your relationship with God in that time, and what happened to bring you out of it?

## Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What are the results of not having any spiritual room in your life? Does your personal experience line up with what Pastor Lane shared in the message or do you have others that you would add?
- What about when you have spiritual room? What results have you seen or experienced in your own life?
- Read Philippians 3:7-14. How does Paul's description of his spiritual journey either challenge or inspire you on your spiritual journey?

## Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do we often struggle to do what we already know we should do to grow in our walk with God? What can we do to overcome those struggles?
- Pastor Lane said in the message that the Holy Spirit is for us what Jesus was for the disciples, and that we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us get spiritual room. Do you think of the Holy Spirit in that way? Is it strange to think of the Holy Spirit that personally?
- How has serving others, using your blessings, talents, etc. to bless and serve others affected your spiritual growth? What is it about serving that makes it so powerful?

## Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, thank You for giving is the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us in all things. Help us to reject religion and instead press on to know you personally, growing day after day in our relationship with you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you do not have spiritual room right now, do not allow guilt or condemnation keep you there. Begin to do what you know you need to do to get spiritual room. Get someone in your corner to cheer you on and encourage you when you struggle.
- If you are not serving anywhere, find a place to serve. It could be at church, at the local rescue mission, humane society, boys and girls club... it really doesn't matter where. Find a place to serve!