

Community Group Guide

Phillipians Week 9

“Distractions”

Week of June 14

Check-in

1. What lessons did you learn from your time in the Word this week?
2. What has God done in your life that's encouraging over the past 2 weeks?
3. Who did you share the gospel with?
4. Can you honestly say that everything is a loss compared to Christ?

Scripture

Read *Phillipians 3:12-14*

Key Point From Message

Two truths that will keep us from getting distracted in the Christian life:

- The Christian life is not a lazy river, it's a race
 - The caliber of the Prize always dictates our efforts in this life
- Stop looking over your shoulder at things of the past
 - Either pride or guilt of something in the past

Discipleship Group Framework

D-group discussions in smaller gender-specific groups help to reveal our blind spots to sin. If this week is a D-group week, the discussions should be focused on confession of sin, providing accountability, and encouraging each other to live in the gospel. Focus on the questions under the “Discover” section and how this week’s Scripture relates to our lives.

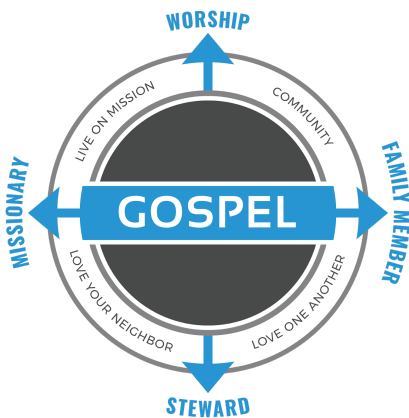


Image Church Core Values

When the gospel defines our lives it should impact everything we do. Living by the gospel should cause us to:

- Grow towards God through daily worship
- Love one another by gathering as family members
- Mobilize as missionaries for God’s kingdom
- Be more generous stewards as we leverage our time, talents, and treasures for Christ.

As we study and discuss the text from this week evaluate how you can grow in each of these four areas.

Discover

1. What stands out to you in this passage of Scripture?
2. What does the text say about the character and nature of God?
3. What does the text say about the work of God?
4. What does the text say about our identity?
5. How does this change the way we live?

Deepen

1. What challenged you about this week's message?
2. Are you treating your Christian walk as a lazy river or a race? What is the prize you are running after?
3. What is a recent spiritual act that makes you prideful? Why do you think your eyes drift off of Christ and onto your own accomplishments?
4. What sin(s) in your past do you still feel guilty about? How can you keep these sins in the past and keep your eyes focused on Christ?

Action Step

Paul encourages us to keep our eyes on Jesus so we can finish strong and not get distracted. Are your eyes firmly fixed on Jesus or do you find yourself distracted by your pride or past? Discuss with your community group what keeps you from focusing on Christ and what Scripture brings your focus back to Jesus. Memorize 1-2 passages of Scripture this week to remind yourself of what Jesus has done for us.

For next week read *Philippians 3:15-4:1*

Missions Focus: South Africa

This month we were planning to take our first international mission trip as a church to South Africa to partner with Julius and Brittany Tennial. The Tennals serve in Johannesburg, where they have been working to form a gospel-centered community. They've done this through neighborhood outreaches, working in partnership with their local church, and getting to know their neighbors and people in their community and inviting them to bible studies. They've recently had their first child and are planning to return to the US in October.

Pray for wisdom for them as they transition and seek next steps, for the ministry to continue and grow, and for the people of Johannesburg to come to know Jesus.

Prayer

Father, thank you salvation. Thank you for loving us even though our flesh continues to fail. We ask that the Spirit will keep our eyes focused on Jesus when we are prone to wander. Thank you for giving us your Word to draw us back to you. Light a fire in our souls for You, so we can lead and encourage others to stay strong in times of uncertainty.

Memory Verse

“I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content--whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”

-Philippians 4:12-13 (CSB)

Upcoming Event

- Virtual Coffee & Conversation: An online evening of fellowship with the women of Image Church on Friday, June 26 at 7:30pm. RSVP by June 19 at <https://imageatl.wufoo.com/forms/virtual-coffee-and-conversation-rsvp>