



## **Discussion Guide**

**April 26**

### **Philippians 3:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup>Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do:

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### **Philippians 3:1-3**

1. Paul begins by telling the believers to “rejoice in the Lord.” Why do you think he repeats this theme so often throughout Philippians?
2. What warning does Paul give in these verses, and why might it have been important for the Philippians to hear it?
3. According to Paul, what distinguishes those who truly belong to God?

### **Philippians 3:4-9**

4. Paul lists many reasons he could have confidence in his religious background. Why do you think he shares this personal résumé?
5. What does Paul mean when he says he now considers these things “loss” for the sake of Christ?
6. How does Paul contrast righteousness based on the law with righteousness that comes through faith in Christ?
7. In what ways might people today be tempted to place confidence in spiritual achievements or credentials?

### **Philippians 3:10-11**

8. Paul expresses a deep desire to know Christ more fully. What aspects of knowing Christ does he highlight here?
9. Why do you think Paul connects knowing Christ with sharing in his sufferings?

### **Philippians 3:12-14**

10. What does Paul say about his own spiritual journey in these verses?
11. What does it mean to “press on” toward the goal in the Christian life?
12. How might Paul’s attitude toward the past help us move forward in faith today?