

GROWTH GROUP STUDY

REFLECT

1. *Would you consider yourself a “goal-oriented” person? If so, are there any short-term or long-term goals you are currently working toward?*

WEEK 13

ENCOUNTER

In Philippians 3:12-14 Paul explains that there was a goal for which he was striving. However, if all we read are verses 12-14, we will have no way of knowing what Paul's goal was. In order to understand verses 12-14 we need to understand the context of the entire passage. Go back and review Philippians 3:7-11 then answer the following questions:

2. *Based on vs. 7-11, what was Paul's goal?*
3. *Why is this significant in light of last week's sermon?*

Read Philippians 3:12-14 and answer the following questions:

4. *How can these verses be an encouragement to believers? How can these verses be a challenge to believers?*
5. *In these verses, Paul, uses the image of a race to describe his life. Why do you think Paul might have used running to illustrate his life?*

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6. *How is straining forward to what lies ahead different for a believer than for someone who doesn't know Christ? What does this look like in the life of believer?*

TRANSFORM

Often times when we think of the Apostle Paul we picture a “super-saint,” someone who had it all together. Yet, we see in this chapter Paul’s goal was not conformity to a system. His mission was not morality. It was a man. Paul desired intimacy with Jesus and it should be no different for us today. The pursuit of every believer should be to press on toward the goal of knowing Jesus more.

7. *What is something new you learned from the sermon or study that you never knew?*
8. *What might you need to leave behind in order to love Jesus and desire him with the same intensity as Paul?*
9. *What next step do you need to take in your race toward the goal?*