

GROWTH GROUP STUDY

REFLECT

1. *Does your employer have a purpose or mission statement? What is the church's mission statement? Some people have personal purpose statements. Do you?*

2. Paul counted his ethnic background, religious zeal, and even good works as gain before he knew Christ (Phil. 3:5-6). *What do people today consider as gain?*

ENCOUNTER

Philippians 3:7-10 is Paul's personal purpose statement for life. It sustains him in difficult trials. It guides him in decision-making. Study these verses in more depth to understand Paul's purpose in life.

3. Mark any repeated words or phrases you in these verses. You may want to mark them by a symbol. For example, you could mark gain with "+."
4. *Paul declares that has counted all things as loss. Why? What's his purpose?* Underline or make a list of all phrases that show purpose. For example "I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

5. A repeated word is suffering. *What was Paul's outlook on suffering according to these verses?*

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6. *Based on your study of these verses, what does it mean to know Christ? How do we know Christ?*

TRANSFORM

Paul considered all things as loss in order to know Christ. That means even the good things he had (his possessions, his career, his abilities). Look at the categories below and work through one or two of them together. Think about the following questions by using one or two of the categories below.

- Career
- Family
- Friendships
- Finances
- Possessions
- Ability to....

7. *If I lost your _____, how do you think would you respond? Is it something you'd count as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ?*

8. *How can your _____ get in the way of knowing Christ?*

9. *In what ways can your _____ be an opportunity to know Christ?*

10. *Hypothetically, what circumstances may force you to choose Christ or your _____?*

11. *What was your next step from this week's sermon?*