

HouseGroups Leaders Guide – Philippians 3 – 3.9.22

The Big Idea: We all put our faith in something: will we put our faith in self-works, spiritual works or Christ's works? Paul reveals why our faith in the work of Christ is the best option for us today.

Supplies Needed: Bibles

HouseGroups Activity: Screaming Vikings (10 minutes)

HOSTING (3 minutes)

We are almost done with the spring semester! This means that many of you are finishing up some big sports, band, theater events or maybe evening looking towards everything awaiting you next year. Often this is the point of the year where we get tired and start to lose sight of what is most important. This week, we are going to read a longer passage of Scripture and see if God's word can help reveal where we are putting our trust in this season. You will want your Bible's out during this time, so get those out and let's get started:

Philippians 3: Part 1 (Video 11 minutes)

Transition (2 minutes)

Alright, before we read the rest of this section, **let's spend some time talking about our current reality.** Let's be honest in sharing **what is most important to us.** This does not need to be a long "bragging" session, but be honest about those things that are becoming a large part of your identity. Meet back here in 20 minutes to continue.

SMALL GROUPS (20 minutes)

1. Are you a person that is driven by achievement? What accomplishment are you most proud of?
2. Do you feel the need to perform at church or at HouseGroups? How does that practically look in your life?
3. What does the term "faith" mean to you? After that is defined, what are you most likely to put your faith or trust in?

Philippians 3: Part 2 (Video 10 minutes)

Transition (2 minutes)

Let's head back to small groups now to continue our discussion, we will close as a HouseGroup together before ending tonight, so see you again soon!

SMALL GROUPS (20 minutes) – *If short on time, make sure you do not miss Question 4*

1. Read through Philippians 3:7-14; what are some additional observations you can make from this passage in Scripture?
2. Justin highlighted three places you could place your faith; self-works, spiritual works or Christ's work. If you were honest, what category do you find yourself in?
3. What does it mean for you to "know Christ", how may that change your relationship with God? What would look different if you truly knew Christ?
4. If you have a friend, who is far from God and placing their faith in self works, how would you start a conversation with them about placing their faith in Christ?

CLOSE TOGETHER AS A HOUSEGROUP – Guided Prayer through Philippians 3:1-14 (6 minutes)

Suggested script for close:

"Together, we are going to close with a time of guided prayer through the Scripture we just studied. We have heard this Scripture in this message, we have read parts of it together in group and now we are going to pray through it; allowing God to speak to us in this moment. I am going to read a portion of Scripture, pause, then provide a prompt for us to lift to God. Take a few moments during that time to listen for God. Let's begin together:

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"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. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 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— 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence."

God, where am I placing my confidence? Reveal to me the ways in which I have replaced you as the priority of my life.

"If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 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; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless"

God, what are the spiritual works I am doing to try and earn you love? Reveal to me the ways in which I am trying to do more for you instead of doing more with you.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 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 9 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.

God, how can I better embrace the righteousness that comes from you alone? Reveal to me the barriers that keep me from embracing this truth.

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 12 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. 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

God, what would it look like in my life to know you more? Reveal to me the areas in which I need to grow and the opportunities I have to trust in you every single day.

