



## Connect Discussion Guide

08.29.21 Message | Keith Ehresman | Philippians 3

### Key Scriptures:

*“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.”*

- Philippians 3:7-11

*“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”*

- Philippians 3:12-16

*“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.”*

- Philippians 4:1

### Message Highlights:

- Our great challenge is to move from living among people to serving with people.
- Life is better and more effective when shared in community.
- Jesus never called his disciples to an easy road; it cost them something and changed everything.
- We witness evil and the effects of those who follow their own appetites, but it is sometimes subtle.
- “Eyes on those who have their eyes on Jesus.”

### Conversation Starter:

Which part of Mark Burbidge’s stories stick out to you the most? Which parts that were shared this morning nudge you to step out of your comfort zone in order to make a greater Kingdom impact?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Why is it so important to live life in community, even when living life in individualistic ways can seem more efficient and less messy?
2. How do your relationships with people who are surrendered to Christ impact your interactions with those who don't have their eyes on Jesus? How can you be a catalyst of deeper and more meaningful conversations in your Christ-centered relationships?
3. Read Philippians 3:16 aloud; how can this piece of wisdom help us to press on toward the goal? How can we filter out distractions that are not from God so that we truly only hold fast to truth which is from God?
4. In what ways have you had to "suffer loss" in order to become committed to living out righteousness?
5. Share/recount with your group some of the ways you are seeing God moving in Africa after hearing today's sermon. How can we guard against having tunnel vision here in Quincy, and continue to have an ever-increasing care and concern for global missions?

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, we thank you for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus. Jesus, we desire to know the power of your resurrection and we understand that we must also share in your sufferings. Grant us the grace, by your Spirit, to embrace the loss of the things we cling to in order that we might gain the even greater things that you have in store for us. We want to live in such a way that others can follow our example as we follow you. Help us to stand firm in you, Lord. Amen*