

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 21-27, 2024
"THE WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Can you think of a time when you realized that something you wanted wasn't as important as you thought? How did you adjust your priorities?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read **Philippians 3:1-11**.

1. Rejoice in the Lord always. Paul will repeat this command in Philippians 4.4. What does this mean and how is it even possible to do this "always"? Why does Paul command us to rejoice and not to be happy?
2. The people Paul is talking about in verse 2, how were they like dogs? Contextually, Paul was referring to false teachers (probably the Judaizers) who were teaching a form of faith plus works. Why is legalism dangerous to the Christian and how does it steal your joy? Can you think of specific ways that you can be legalistic?
3. What kinds of things did Paul have to brag about (verse 4ff)? What is the significance of each of these things? In verse 7, Paul uses the metaphor of an accountant. Who can explain this metaphor?
4. What are some things in your life that you tend to hold onto too tightly? Is Paul saying that these things (or relationships) are not important? What is the balance?
5. Paul's ultimate goal was to know Christ. How do you think did this would motivate him? What is the difference between knowing Christ and knowing about Christ?

6. Paul said he wants share in Christ's suffering (verse 10). Why does Paul embrace suffering? How is suffering connected with knowing Christ? What does a Christian gain from suffering? Is this idea scary for you?
7. What specific steps would you need take in the next couple of months if knowing Christ will be your goal?

NEXT STEPS

"Knowing Christ is the greatest thing of all. Why be satisfied with anything else?"

- I will be alert for "joy stealers" and legalism.
- I will put my confidence only in Christ righteousness.
- I will pursue knowing Christ as my goal in life.
- I will be a witness for others to see Christ in my life.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow in knowledge of Christ, whether in good times and especially in difficult times.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

October 21 Philippians 3:1-11
October 22 Romans 15:1-6
October 23 1 Peter 5:1-11
October 24 Jeremiah 17:5-11
October 25 Galatians 3:1-12
October 26 Psalms 30:1-12
October 27 Philippians 4:1-9