

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 28-November 2, 2024

“GO FOR GOLD”

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.

Did you play any sports growing up, or do you play any now? Why did you choose that particular sport?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 3:12-21.

1. How would you describe Paul's attitude in Philippians 3.12-14? Would you say that Paul is dissatisfied? In what way?
2. Forgetting what is behind. What did Paul have to forget about? Some people struggle with forgetting what is behind. Can you share something that you have personally learned about getting past your past?
3. Paul says, "I press on." Does that speak of the past, the present, or the future? Was Paul trying hard to be good? What place does trying hard to be good have in Christian living? What is the application for us?
4. Paul was saying to the Philippians, "Follow my example." Should we follow human examples today, or just follow Jesus? Would you feel comfortable saying to a new believer, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ"?
5. When Paul talks about the enemy of the cross, he basically describes them as people whose minds are set on earthly things. Contrast this with Colossians 3.1: set your hearts on things above. How is the life of the person who sets their hearts on things above different—and better—than the one who does not?

6. Our citizenship is in Heaven. Can you honestly say that you are looking forward to Jesus' return? What keeps a Christian distracted from this?
7. What do we learn about the Christian life and about Christian maturity from today's passage?

NEXT STEPS

It is not about finishing first or finishing last, but about finishing well.

- I will press on in my Christian life and will be constantly alert about where my life is going.
- I will be an example for those who are following me.
- I will be alert on those who will lead me away from Jesus.
- I will be hold on to my identity as a citizen of heaven.

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 for right perspective and the power of the Holy Spirit to run the race well.
- 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 28 Philippians 3:12-19
October 29 Nehemiah 6:15-19
October 30 Matthew 4:18-22
October 31 1 Kings 12:25-33
November 1 1 Samuel 27:1-12
November 2 Psalms 31:1-24
November 3 Philippians 3:20-21