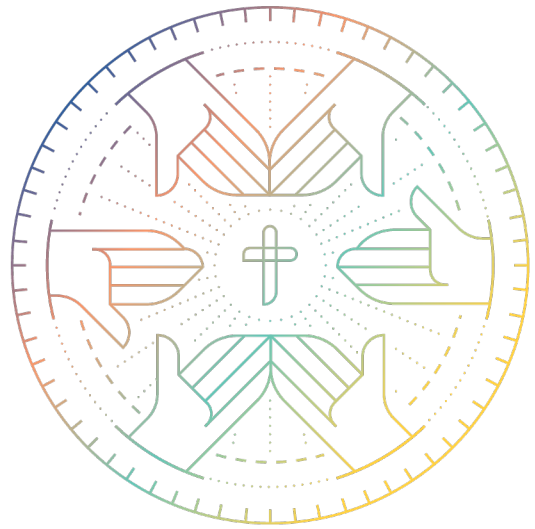


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

____ like Jesus: "Knowing Jesus Changes Everything"

Scripture Focus: Philippians 3:1-11

ICEBREAKER

If you could only keep one personal possession that represents your life, what would it be and why?

What is something you've worked hard to achieve that brought satisfaction—but didn't ultimately fulfill you the way you expected?

INTRODUCTION

Everyone builds their identity on something. It may be success, reputation, family, accomplishments, morality, or influence. Those things aren't necessarily bad, but they make poor foundations because they can all be lost. In Philippians 3, Paul reflects on his impressive religious résumé and concludes that none of it compares to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. True joy isn't found in what we accomplish for Christ—it is found in knowing Christ Himself.

What stood out to you most from this week's message?

INTO THE WORD

Read Philippians 3:1–3, Psalm 16:11, and John 15:9–11. Paul tells the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord." Why do you think Paul roots joy in a relationship with Jesus rather than in circumstances or accomplishments? What are some things people commonly look to for lasting joy, and why do they eventually fall short?

Read Philippians 3:4–9, Ephesians 2:8–9, and Romans 3:21–24. Paul lists all the reasons he could have been confident in his own achievements, yet he considers them "loss" compared to knowing Christ. What are some modern-day ways people try to earn their identity or worth? How does receiving Christ's righteousness by grace change the way we view ourselves and others?

Read Philippians 3:10–11, Romans 8:17–18, James 1:2–4, and Colossians 2:6–7. Paul's greatest desire was "that I may know Him." According to these verses, what does it really mean to know Jesus? How have you experienced God's power, presence, or growth through seasons that were difficult rather than easy?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Knowing Jesus changes everything by:

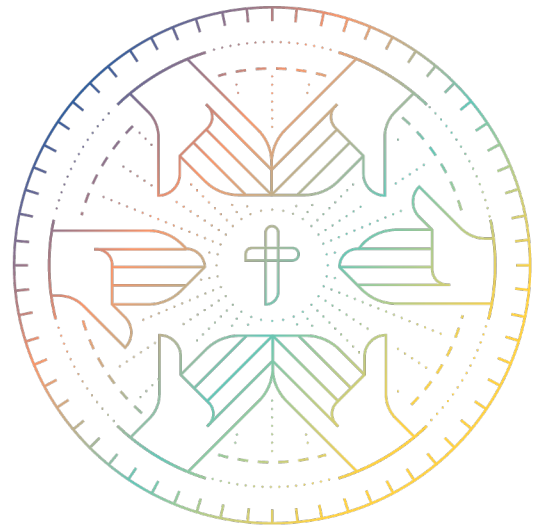
- Finding your identity in Christ rather than your accomplishments.
- Receiving God's grace instead of trying to earn His approval.
- Pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus every day.
- Trusting Christ's power in both joy and suffering.

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- What are you most tempted to build your identity or confidence on besides Jesus?
- If someone observed your daily life, what would they conclude is most valuable to you? Why?

Group Life.

W E A R E B E T T E R T O G E T H E R



- What is one practical way you can pursue knowing Jesus more deeply this week rather than simply learning more about Him?
- What do you want to be characterized by most in life?

TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Seek God Daily:** Spend time each day reading Philippians 3:1–11. Ask God to reveal where you are placing your confidence and invite Him to deepen your relationship with Him.
- **Make God Known:** Ask God to provide opportunities for you to share your faith. If someone shares their suffering with you or opens the door to a faith conversation, be ready to share how knowing Jesus has changed your life and can change their life too. If they are willing, pray for them.
- **Worship God:** Spend time thanking Jesus that your acceptance before God is based on His righteousness, not your performance.
- **Serve Others:** Point others to Jesus by providing encouragement and hope to someone experiencing suffering. This could be done by simply meeting a practical need, taking the time to call, or being fully present as they share what's going on.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that You have invited us to know Jesus more. Please forgive us for the times we try to find our fulfillment in others, possessions, experiences, or accomplishments, instead of a deepening relationship with You through Christ. Help us to be committed to pursuing Jesus more deeply, and as we do, let that change everything. In Jesus' name, Amen!