

Philippians Discussion Questions
10.29.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What does it take to know Jesus?
2. If someone asked you how would you explain to them your qualifications to belong to the people of God?

Background

During the time of Paul there were several false teachers roaming through Israel and the Roman Empire. They were teaching things like, that you still needed to be circumcised if you wanted to be sure you would be saved. Paul points out that he is uniquely qualified to assure everyone that putting confidence in anything other than Jesus is foolish. Paul met all the criteria for holiness from a religious standpoint, but he still chose to chase after Jesus.

Read Philippians 3:1-14

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. How does Paul describe those teaching that circumcision remains necessary?
2. What qualifications does Paul list for why he could have confidence in the flesh?
3. Paul considers all his advantages to be nothing to brag about. What language does he use to describe how he feels in verses 7-9?
4. When Paul says he wants to know Jesus, what does he then call out in verses 10-11?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What sort of things get added to the list of things people must do to be saved today?
2. If we step away from a checklist to prove salvation, what evidence can we look for in our own lives and in the lives of others?
3. Paul uses strong language to describe how he feels about what he has lost while pursuing the call of Jesus. What experiences have you had that made you feel similarly?
4. What does it mean to forget what is behind and press on toward what is ahead (see verses 12-14)?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What steps can we take to be sure we do not erect roadblocks to people knowing Jesus?
2. How can we each set the example that confidence in the flesh is empty, but knowing Jesus is where true joy comes from?
3. How can we avoid the pull of our past as we walk with Jesus?
4. What is the goal we should be striving toward according to Paul?

Closing

Knowing Jesus is the best thing we can do with our lives; it is the very thing that will allow us to sever ties with the past that prevents us from diving deep into what God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. Take a few minutes to pray together for the courage to set aside all things we have put our faith in that are not from Jesus so that we can know him more fully.

Reminder: The goal and highest achievement for those who follow Jesus as their King and Savior is to live like him.