



DISCUSSION GUIDE

How we grow (Philippians 3:12-21)

GETTING STARTED

Describe a discipline or sport, learning to play an instrument, getting a degree that you did in your past or currently do.

What was most difficult? What was most rewarding? Why? What was the goal?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way can we confuse spiritual growth as a project and not a process? What difference does it make?

What is the goal of spiritual growth? How is it different than just trying to be a better person, accomplishing a goal, or learning more?

In what way can you begin to invite Christ to live and walk with you in your everyday life? How can you begin to shape your 24 hour day into a process of learning to live in Jesus' name? In whatever you do and say?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Philippians 3:12-21]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What was Paul aware of when it came to maturing in Christ? (3:12-14)

In what ways did Paul's spiritual life resemble the discipline of a runner? (3:12-14)

What was Paul's view of the past? (3:13)

What was Paul's goal? (3:14) How did Paul call the Philippians to share his view? (3:15)

What did Paul hope for those who disagreed with him?

What was Paul's plea to the Philippians? (3:16)

How did Paul want believers to imitate him? (3:17)

How did Paul describe God's enemies? (3:18-19)

Where did the Philippian Christians have their citizenship? (3:20)

Whom did the Philippian believers eagerly await? (3:20)

What characterizes citizens of heaven? (3:21)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what way is running a race an important metaphor for growing in Christ?

What prize awaits us? How ought this motivate us to grow in Christ and to live out our faith everyday?

What kind of opposition do you face in your struggle to walk with God?

How can you imitate Paul's life (or others) and example?

How can you re-orient your every and ordinary 24 hour day to invite Christ into every part of it?

What would need to shift or change?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?