

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Choosing Joy

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Strive For Christlikeness

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## **Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:8 NIV

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** Christlikeness is our goal! We strive and press on to be like Jesus.

## **Read Philippians 3**

1. The group that Paul is speaking against taught that external rituals and religious rule-keeping is what made you right with God (vv 2-4). What external things can some people point to to validate that they are saved? Have you seen people find security in rituals rather than in a relationship with God?
2. It was Paul's testimony about Christ that made him a target and led to his imprisonment, which caused him to lose everything. Paul valued being a witness for Christ above everything else (v 8). If you were to rate your emotional fervor for sharing Christ with others on a scale of 1-10, where would you place yourself? Does your heart desire to want to share Christ with others translate into action? Where would you like to grow the most in talking with unbelievers about Jesus?
3. Paul doesn't just lose things, he gladly lets them go because Jesus is more valuable. How is letting go of something easier when it's replaced by something better? In what ways have you experienced Jesus as more satisfying than something you once valued highly? What competes most



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with Jesus for your affection, excitement, or sense of fulfillment right now?

4. Paul connects knowing Christ with sharing in His sufferings (v 10). How does suffering for the sake of the gospel bring us closer to Jesus in a way that comfort and success cannot? Why do you think we often want the power of the resurrection but hesitate at the idea of sharing in Christ's sufferings? How can our Small Groups serve as places where people feel supported as they walk through suffering?
5. Paul admits he has not "arrived," but presses on toward Christ (v 12). Paul saw that he had room for growth. What might God be inviting you to pursue more intentionally in your walk with Him right now? What are some signs in your life that growth is happening, even if it feels slow?
6. Paul mentions "forgetting what lies behind" (v 13). What things in the past are you dwelling on that hinder you on your spiritual journey? Is there anyone you need to forgive or seek forgiveness from in the past? What past successes are you resting on that might be keeping you from seeking new growth?
7. The way we should live has been modeled for us by those who were witnesses to Jesus (v 17). Are there some aspects of faith that are "caught" rather than "taught"? Who has been a meaningful example of following Jesus in your life, and what specifically about their life made an impact on you? In your current season of life, do you have someone(s) you are learning from?
8. You don't have to be a citizen of Israel to get to heaven. Regardless of what nation a believer lives in, their allegiance is to Christ (v 20). What are some ways we tend to live more like citizens of this world than citizens of heaven? What are some subtle ways national, political, or cultural identities can begin to compete with our identity in Christ?



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