



“Striving Toward Maturity”

**Philippians**  
“striving side by side  
for the faith of the  
gospel”

**Primary Text:** Philippians 3:1;12-16

### 1. Pray (2 mins)

**Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God’s word.**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

### 2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

**Read Philippians Chapter 3**

- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what is the one thing that most resonated with you? [Accountability: How has your grumbling and complaining been this week?]

- What have we learned about the book of Philippians (author, theme, purpose)? Why is this information important?

- Who can tell us about our author, Paul; how did he come to know Jesus? Where can we find his story in the Bible?

- Can anyone give us a general summary of how we arrived at this current text? What has Paul taught us in his letter to the Philippians up to this point?

### 3. Illuminate (30 mins)

**On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.**

- The Bible rewards the careful and patient reader with powerful truths, what have you uncovered in this text thus far?

- Paul consistently re-visits the theme of rejoicing in Philippians. Why is this ironic?

- Paul was very goal-oriented, focused on keeping his eyes fixed on the prize. What was his prize? What can we learn from Paul in verses 12-16?

- What is Paul trying to communicate to us when he speaks of maturity in v.15?

- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Given the opportunity, could you now explain this text to someone else? Anyone brave enough to try it now?

### 4. Pray (10 mins)

**Rather than take prayer requests, let’s bring our requests to God through prayer. Let’s talk to Him.**

How to Pray?

- Acknowledge that he is God (He is holy).
- Acknowledge that we need Him (We are sinful)
- Thank Him for how he has provided for you (He is faithful)
- Cast your cares upon Him (He hears us)
- Ask that His will be done (His will is truly what is best for us)

**Primary Text: Philippians 3:1;12-16**

[Righteousness Through Faith in Christ]

<sup>1</sup>Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

[Straining Toward the Goal]

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.