



“Focusing on Eternity”

Jesus...

Only lived 33 years.
Traveled < 100 miles.
No formal education.

Why is the world still talking about him?

- Billy Graham

Primary Text: Philippians 3:17-21

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 3:12-21

- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what is the one thing that most resonated with you?

- What have we learned about the book of Philippians (author, theme, purpose)? Where in the Bible did our author meet Jesus?

- From memory, 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.

- After reading through this text, have you noticed any of our themes re-surfacing?

- Paul begins this text by saying, “imitate me.” He has established that he is very much imperfect in his Christian maturity, so what does he want the Philippians to imitate?

- For those whose end is destruction, what does Paul say has been their god? [Introspective: If your life aligns with these destructive gods, it is time to re-evaluate your life and repent of these things.]

- Philippi was a newly established Roman colony in which the Philippians were very proud. Why does Paul address citizenship in verse 20?

- In verse 21, Jesus has the power to subject all things to himself. Where else in Philippians does Paul paint the perfect picture of Jesus’ power?

- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Given the opportunity, could you now explain this text to someone else in your own words? 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.

- God desires to hear his children, in joy and in sorrow. The Bible says in Matthew 11, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” When this world is weighing heavy on you, it is so important that you talk to Him and cast your anxieties upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). He does not desire a polished prayer, he just wants to hear your voice. Let us go to Him now.

Previous Text: Philippians 3:12-16

[Straining Toward the Goal]

¹² 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. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Primary Text: Philippians 3:17-21

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.