

“Joy In The Everyday: Second To None”

Growth Group Guide

August 30, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

In your own words, how is Jesus second to none, and why does that give us “joy in the everyday?” Include examples from Sunday’s sermon.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read Philippians 3:8 together as seen below in the three different versions. Which phrases pop out to you and why? Open in prayer giving praise for the irresistible, overwhelming gain of knowing Jesus.

Philippians 3:8 CEV. Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ.

Philippians 3:8 ERV. Not only these things, but now I think all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Christ, I lost all these things, and now I know that they are all worthless trash. All I want now is Christ.

Philippians EASY. Yes, now that I know Christ Jesus as my Lord, that is the most valuable thing. Nothing else is important at all. I have thrown everything else away, so that I can serve Christ. All those other things are like dirt to me. I think about them like that, so that I can have Christ.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Philippians 3:7-9.** Paul had a profit column and loss column. It began with all of his religious goodness in the profit column and Jesus in his loss column. When he discovered who Jesus was his columns switched. How disorienting but transformational! Attempt to put yourself in his shoes, what might that have been like? Have you ever experienced something similar in your interactions with God?
2. Everything Paul could think of, compared to knowing Jesus, was a loss. What sort of things might we find in Paul’s and our lists that we would normally count as a profit to us? Why might it be hard to reassess these things as losses?
3. When it comes to our fleshly imitation goodness, we won’t see the need to place no confidence in it if we think it is successful. For this reason, like with Paul’s Damascus Road experience, God will orchestrate circumstances that will show our good flesh is a failure. What do think about this, and how does knowing God is wholly good help us navigate the failure of our good flesh?
4. When our good flesh fails, we may enter a cycle of fail, try harder, repeat. We will do this until we are exhausted and think Christianity doesn’t work. What really doesn’t work is fleshly goodness and the

false legalistic Christianity. Why is it important to understand the difference, and if we don’t, what’s at risk?

5. Have you or someone you known ever wondered is there something more to this whole Christianity thing? Based on what we’re talking about here, how could that question be alerting us to what might be going on? How might we seek help for ourselves or offer it to others?
6. When knowing Jesus became a profit to Paul, everything else, no matter how good, became a loss. The way Paul knew Jesus wasn’t just intellectual. **Read John 10:27, John 17:3, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 John 5:20, Philippians 1:21, Galatians 2:20, and Colossians 3:4.** What do you learn in these verses about what it is to know Jesus?
7. Christianity is Christ. Salvation and growing as a Christian is all about knowing Jesus deeply and intimately. How does this reframe or affirm what you know about being a Christian? How does it give you joy?
8. **Read Matthew 13:45-46.** Correlate it to what Paul shares here in Philippians 3:7-9. Obviously the pearl is Jesus, but what does Paul share that makes Him of great value to us?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea:** There is no comparison to the profound privilege and worth of knowing Jesus deeply and intimately, and being found in Him. Paul, our own brother in Christ, found Jesus and relationship with Him beyond compare. He let go of EVERYTHING to not be kept from relationship with Jesus. God’s heart desires this for us too. Meditate on Philippians 3:8 in the “Worship Through Prayer” section of this guide. Invite God to give you a new “aha moment” as you do.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

The school year is just around the corner! Schools all over Eugene and Springfield are getting their campuses ready to receive students for the 2026-2027 school year. Project Hope, spear-headed by One Hope (the originators of our “See The City” prayer guides), was a huge success this weekend. More than 3500 children received shoes, backpacks, school supplies, hair cuts, and more. Thurston Christian Church sent 3 volunteers to participate and we had 7 volunteers at the Ridgeview Elementary Clean Up Day. Joining with volunteers from Eastside Baptist, we removed weeds, vines, and wheelbarrow loads of pine tree debris. Lacy, the school principal, was excited to welcome us and see the campus made beautiful for the first day of school. Our volunteer teams unified in prayer for the students and staff, praying for God’s Spirit to have freedom to move at Ridgeview over the year. Please pray for safety over the school year, for Christian students to be able to share their faith, for the Release Time Bible Classes, and for the teachers who know Jesus (there are several at Ridgeview) to shine the light of God’s love. Pray that students will engage Christian teachers in conversations about Jesus. May this be a Jesus-filled year at Ridgeview Elementary!

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