

Complete Joy
Week 11 – Fix Your Focus

Transition: In last week's text, Paul admitted to the Philippians that he hadn't reached perfection in his journey with Jesus but was excited about the day when he would. He resolved not to let the past hinder him from forward progress in his faith.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: In today's text, Paul nudges the Philippians to follow his example and focus on the example of those who are living out the faith well. He then contrasts those who live as enemies of Jesus with those whose citizenship is in heaven.

Opening Questions:

- Who is someone in your life that you wanted to be like? What was intriguing about their example?
- As you consider goals, how do you decide what is worth chasing after?

Scripture/Storying: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Discipleship Questions:

- What is Paul getting at when he says, "join in imitating me" and "keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us"? Why do you think Paul emphasizes following those that are living the faith well? How can you intentionally work toward imitating those who are living out the faith well?
- Why do you think Paul frequently reminded the Philippians about those who live as enemies of Jesus? What breaks your heart about those who live as enemies of Christ? How does God want you to respond to those that live as enemies of Christ?
- What does it mean to have your mind "set on earthly things?" Why do you think it is so easy to focus on worldly desires? How can you keep your heart focused on Christ rather than the temporary?
- What does heavenly citizenship imply to you? Why is keeping your heavenly citizenship in focus important in your world? How can you reflect your heavenly citizenship in your relationships and everyday decisions?
- What excites you about Christ's return and the resurrection? How can you live expectantly of his return? How does his return and the resurrection encourage you in this world?
- What does standing firm look like to you? How can you deliberately stand firm in a world where many live as enemies of Jesus?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Street Hope TN

Pray for their residents as they move into the holiday season. The holidays can bring both joy and pain, and for many, difficult memories may surface. Pray that each survivor experiences peace, comfort and hope during this time. Pray for Street Hope as they seek and hire additional team members who will help them carry out the mission of restoration with care and compassion.