**Philippians 3**

Life Group Outline

**Opening**

Begin Life Group however you normally would - catching up from the week, sharing a meal, asking an opening question, etc.

**Bible Study**

So far we’ve covered Real Devotional Life and Real Community. This week, we’ll be talking about Real Responsibility. We believe in the personal responsibility that comes with following Jesus. Here in Chapter 3 we can see how Paul is calling us to press towards the goals of righteousness and spreading of the Gospel.

Read Philippians 3:1-6, either out loud or each person on their own.

* One of Paul’s main focuses here is that “fleshly achievements” count as nothing.
* These verses refer to the problem of the Judaizers in the early church. These were groups of legalistic Jews who claimed to believe in the gospel but added their own works and traditions to it. Their main doctrine was that you not only need to believe in Christ, but also need to keep the law, especially circumcision, or you cannot be saved.
* What are the problems with a work-oriented approach to the Gospel?
  + *The biggest problem is that it cannot possibly be successful! They were teaching people to follow the law, but it is impossible for anyone to keep the whole law. That is one of the major points in the Old Testament and preparing people for the coming of Christ. A person who tries to follow all of the laws of the Jewish society will fall far short. He will be burdened to the point of collapse. And finally he will collapse under the strain which no man (except for Christ) can bear.*

*o It encourages pride.*

*o Gives us the glory instead of God.*

* If Paul cannot rely on his earthly achievements to save him what does that say about us?

Read Philippians 3:7-10

* True righteousness comes from God, not the law.
* What should our number one goal be in life?
  + *Know God*
* Paul does not just call worldly achievements meaningless, he actually calls them a loss. Why are they a loss? (Think back to chapter one.) How can gaining something actually take more away from you?

Read Philippians 3:11-21, either out loud or each person on their own.

* Paul stresses that he is not already perfect, he is still involved in the struggles of this world. He still is a sinner but the full glory of the resurrection still remains in the future. “I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made it his own. This is a balance of faith and works, God’s call and our response.
* Paul emphasizes the need for progress in our life for Christ. Presenting himself as one who continually reaches ahead to see God’s kingdom expand.
* Holiness - being set apart, distinctly different, pure
  + “a cut above the rest”
* Sanctification - The action of making or declaring something holy.
  + Process of being freed from sin and purified.
* What is involved in pressing on to become sanctified? What kind of actions do we need to take if we are pressing on to pursue holiness?
  + Is holiness an option for us?
    - *It’s what we are called to, responsible for becoming.*
* Paul calls the Philippians to imitate him, this is a common theme in his letters. He is not asking them to focus on him, but to follow his lead of living in a humble and radical dependence on Christ.
* Why must we not hold on to our past If we want a future of expanding God’s Kingdom?
  + What in your past do you need to let go of so you can push forward in expanding the gospel?
* Cross reference - Read Matthew 28:16-20
  + What does Jesus call his disciples to do in this? What are the verbs?
  + Is this call to make disciples still ours today? If so, what does this look like for you? Make it personal about the areas in your life you need to show more personal responsibility about furthering the Gospel.

**Closing**