



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17, 2024 | BY ANY MEANS

WARM-UP QUESTION

We are standing on the shoulders of the people who came before us. The people who laid a foundation and passed down gifts, knowledge and experience. Who are the people whose shoulders you stand on? How have they impacted your life and faith?

DISCUSS

Read Philippians 3:1-10

- What is Paul saying in this passage? What are some words, phrases or themes that stand out to you?
- In verse 2, Paul says to watch out for dogs and “those people who do evil.” Why do you think it’s often easier to remember those who’ve hurt us than those who’ve helped us? How might focusing on a list of positive influences change our perspective?
- How does Paul define the true people of God in verse 3? How is his definition different from what his opponents might say?
- Paul considers his achievements “garbage” compared to knowing Christ. What are some things in your life you might be tempted to find your identity or worth in (e.g., career, relationships, finances)?
- In verses 8-9, Paul contrasts two kinds of righteousness: “righteousness through obeying the law” and “righteousness through faith in Christ.” How does Paul define each type of righteousness, and why does he prefer one over the other?
- How does Paul connect the ideas of resurrection and suffering? Why do you think he wants to participate in Jesus’s sufferings?

Read Philippians 3:11-21

- In verses 12-14, Paul describes “pressing on” and “forgetting what is behind.” What are some past accomplishments or failures that might hold you back? How can we press forward in our faith without being weighed down by the past?
- In verses 18-19, Paul talks about “enemies of the cross of Christ.” Who might these people be, and what does Paul mean by this term?
- How can we cultivate the same determination Paul had to live as citizens of Heaven, even in a world that often values temporary things over eternal significance?
- In verse 21, Paul talks about Jesus transforming our “lowly bodies” to be like His “glorious body.” What do you think this transformation means, and why is it important for Paul’s audience to understand this?



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17, 2024 | BY ANY MEANS

RESPOND

- Imagine people in the future standing on your shoulders. What kind of legacy would you want to leave for those who come after you?
- What is one area of your life where you feel called to awaken spiritually or invest more fully in God's work? How can you take practical steps this week to respond to that calling?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals and promptings that came up in discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's nudging you to do this week.