

LISTENING GUIDE

Philippians 3:7-14

1. Pressure can be highly _____, but this is _____.
2. Sometimes we think our life's performance _____ us.
3. When we base our relationship with God on performance we engage in much _____ and expend a lot of _____, but never move forward.
4. To know Jesus is to know his _____, not my own.
5. The knowledge of Christ's surpassing greatness liberates you to be motivated by God's _____.
6. We are defined by _____.

LIFEGROUPS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP.
BRING THIS SHEET AND A BIBLE WITH YOU TO YOUR LIFE GROUP.



WARM UP

Share an example of a time when you felt pressure to perform.

QUICK REVIEW

Do you feel there was anything from this week's message with which you disagreed?

INTO GOD'S WORD

This weekend Paul's words pushed us to see Jesus and a connection with him as the most important thing we can gain. In verse 10 Paul wrote, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul described a being united with Christ. **Read Romans 6:1-7**

In what ways are we united to Christ?

What strength and motivation does being united with Christ give to your life?

This weekend Pastor emphasized that Christ grabs us for a purpose. Paul wrote that he “pressed on toward the goal to win the prize” for which God had called him heavenward.

How do the following passages describe that goal toward which we live our lives? What do they tell you about the actions we will take to press on toward that goal?

Matthew 25:1-13 (This weekend’s Gospel reading.)

Ezekiel 37:24-28 (This weekend’s 1st scripture reading.)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

INTO MY LIFE

As Jesus took hold of Paul and brought faith to his heart, Paul understood that his standing before God was not about his actions but about Christ's actions. He was defined by Christ. However, pastor also emphasized that this brought a change of attitude to Paul's life that motivated him to be forward-thinking and forward moving. As Paul wrote, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." We said this is the same attitude with which we can live our lives. We didn't say exactly what that would look like.

What activities of our lives are part of "pressing on toward the goal?"

After you meet together with your life group and hear other answers to the question above, circle three that you would especially like to focus on in the next week.

SHARING & PRAYER

Your prayer requests:

