

Objective: Family members keep seeking to know Christ better as they wait eagerly for His return.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Philippi, written around AD 62 while under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul taught his readers about the great value of pressing forward to know Christ better.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 18 through 22 of the New Testament (Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Philippians 3:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with family members about how we are to make knowing Christ our highest priority and how we can do that.



Key Truth: Believers Put No Confidence in Their Own Righteousness (Philippians 3:1-7)

Paul began with a reminder to rejoice in the Lord. This is a recurring theme of Paul's letter to the Philippians. He felt that reviewing important points was valuable (verse 1). Paul warned the believers to watch out for those who put their confidence in their own works and not in Christ. This was evil and worked against the gospel (verses 2-3). Paul had more reason to rely on good works than anyone, but he considered all these gains as loss and a false basis of spiritual confidence. These things were both useless and unimportant when it came to a genuine relationship with God (verses 4-7).



Key Truth: Believers Press on to Know Christ Deeply and Experience All God Has for Us (Philippians 3:8-14)

Knowing and walking with Christ surpassed everything Paul previously placed value in. His desire was to be united with Christ, possessing the righteousness that comes only through faith in Christ and His finished work. His one great passion was to fully and finally know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and to share Christ's suffering (verses 8-11). Paul had not yet attained full knowledge and experience of Christ, yet he put the past behind him and pursued it with all his being, straining for the prize (verses 12-14).



Key Truth: Believers Follow Godly Examples and Look Forward to Christ's Return (Philippians 3:15-21)

Paul exhorted mature readers to realize they had not yet arrived and to follow his example of pursuing Christ (verses 15-17). He warned the believers about enemies whose false teaching and influence led some astray. Their minds and way of life are fixed on worldly things, while believers' ultimate citizenship is in Heaven. We eagerly await the Lord's return and the glorified bodies we will receive. We will fully know Christ and be made like Him (verses 18-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why should knowing and pursuing Christ be our highest priority?
- **Why is it important to know Christ?**
- What does it look like to pursue Christ?
- Why should we put no confidence in our own righteousness and good deeds?
- **How does a believer grow in his or her knowledge of Christ?**
- What does it look like to press on in our pursuit of knowing Christ?
- **What can you do this week to grow in your knowledge of and love for Christ?**

Everyday Extras

Have each member of the family make a list of the good things they have done. (Young children could draw pictures.) Include awards and proud moments. Include school, sports, and community activities. Talk together about how good these activities make you feel and how you are proud of them. Act as if you are going to celebrate these accomplishments but destroy the list instead. If you have a firepit, you could burn them. If you have a shredder, you could shred the list. You could tear the list into tiny pieces and flush it down the toilet. That's exactly how Paul saw his accomplishments, according to Philippians 3:7–8. Even the best things about him were garbage, he said, compared to knowing Jesus.

Ask your family to compete in a race. Have one person dress in a winter coat and boots, another dress in an oversized bathrobe and slippers, and the third person ready to run for speed. Talk about how we can be slowed down when we are not ready to run! Read Philippians 3:13–14 together and talk about the race we are in. When we think about living for Jesus as a race, we don't want to let the bad things or the good things in our past slow us down and distract us from the race. We always want to be doing our best to know Jesus better!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about the joy that comes only from God. Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Philippi while he was in prison. He told them he was praying they would stay strong and continue to make good choices. Paul wanted the people to do all things with a joyful heart, which means without complaining, whining, or arguing. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** too.