

Beyond Sunday

5.24.2026

Joy is a Person Before it's a Prize — *Philippians 3:1-11* — Dan Perkins

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. What is one accomplishment, milestone, or "finish line" you've worked really hard to achieve? How did it feel once you reached it?
2. Have you ever chased something you thought would bring lasting joy—only to realize it didn't fully satisfy? What did you learn from that experience?

Grow

These questions guide your group through scripture from Sunday's sermon and help us better understand God's Word and His work in our lives.

1. Read Philippians 3:1-11 together.

- What are some of the "counterfeit offers" our culture gives us today?
- Why do you think these are so attractive?

2. Paul lists all of his accomplishments and credentials in verses 4-6.

- What stands out to you about Paul's résumé?
- How do people today build their own "spiritual" or personal résumés?
- Why is it tempting to place our confidence in these things?

3. Read Philippians 3:7-9 again.

- What do you think Paul means by "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ"?
- How is "knowing Jesus" different from simply knowing about Him?

4. Read Philippians 3:10–11 and Hebrews 12:1–2.

Paul says he want to know:

- The power of Christ's resurrection
- Participation in His sufferings
- Becoming like Him in His death

What do you think each of these means practically in everyday life?

How does fixing our eyes on Jesus help us endure the "race" we are running?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply the sermon takeaways and live differently this week.

1. Where are you most tempted to find your identity, worth, or joy outside of Jesus? What would it look like to surrender that area to Christ this week?
2. What is one practical step you can take this week to know Jesus more personally—not just intellectually?

Examples:

- Daily prayer time
- Scripture meditation
- Confession
- Rest/Sabbath
- Serving someone quietly
- Letting go of comparison
- Spending intentional time with God

Prayer

Scripture Prayer

Read Hebrews 12:1–2 aloud together:

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

How can this group be praying for you this week as you seek to keep your eyes on Jesus?

Going Deeper

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, check out one of these resources:

Video

- *Philippians* by The Bible Project <https://bibleproject.com/videos/philippians/>

Article

- *How to Find Your Identity in Christ Rather than Your Performance* by Living by Design Ministries. <https://livingbydesign.org/performance/>

Practice

- Spend 10 minutes each day this week praying through Philippians 3:7–10.

Ask:

- What am I treating as gain?
- What do I need to surrender?
- How can I know Christ more deeply today?