



SDG Discussion Guide

Philippians 3:12-16

October 8, 2017

For starters:

In your dreams of the ideal life, are you more like the pioneer (always pushing on) or the settler (settling down)?

What simple pleasures or delights motivate you towards your commitments?

What are some important anniversaries in your life? Do you have any traditions to acknowledge or celebrate them?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. Using the imagery of a track race, where does Paul picture himself in his spiritual life (vv 12-14)? Why is this such an appropriate description of the Christian life?
2. In verses 17-21 Paul contrasts Christians with "enemies of the cross." What are the concerns and destiny of each group?
3. Who do you look to as an example of Christian living? On the other hand, who are you trying to be an example to?
4. What does it mean to you to be a citizen of heaven and an heir of God's kingdom? What do you appreciate when you think about being heaven?
5. If you had to describe your life in Christ right now in terms of a track race, where would you be: On the sidelines? Warming up? At the starting point? Giving it your all? Where in your life could you use a "coach"?
6. Have you ever placed your confidence in something and someone, believing it would bring you closer to God but it did not? What did you learn?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to bring renewed clarity to his vision for your life. Ask him what it looks like in your particular circumstances to be loved, and to love others. Call on the Holy Spirit to help you bring forth any matters of your heart that you need to turn away from to turn over to him. Pray, "God I repent from the ways I have fallen short of your glory." Then pause, listen, and pray again for a fresh realization of his blessed assurance. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you and your group anew, to launch you forth toward your renewed vision as a citizen of heaven and an heir of God's kingdom.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).