



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Five  
Philippians 3:1-11

### PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

→ *If you're meeting virtually, use the Chat feature to write out these requests as they are shared. Use that list as a reference during the prayer time (and you can copy & paste it for your reference later in the week).*

### INTRODUCTION

What are different motives people have for religious activities like attending church? Which of these are appropriate and which are inappropriate?

Why is it often easier to find security and meaning in religious practices than in Christ alone?

### READ PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

Why is Paul so concerned about “those dogs”? What or who were the “dogs”—the false teachings—that threatened the people in Paul's day?

What was Paul's resume? Could someone find fault with his devotion to God?

What does “confidence in the flesh” mean (v. 4)?

In his “profit and loss” system (vv. 4-8), how does Paul ultimately figure the worth of his religious credentials? What is the secret to success?

Name some things people do to “get right” with God. How does culture today influence the mentality that we must “do good” to be saved?

In what kinds of works and credentials have you placed your confidence in the past? Why did you put your trust in these things?

What do you consider to be one of your best accomplishments or qualifications? How does it feel to consider that accomplishment or qualification as “garbage” compared to knowing Christ?

What fleshly qualifications do you have that tempt you to put confidence in them? Have you considered them “a loss” for Christ? What changes has this brought into your life?

### APPLY IT

What accomplishments and/or failures do you need to forget to focus on Jesus? How can doing so help you better serve Him?

Paul desired to know Christ better, above all else. How does your desire in this area compare to Paul's?

How can you continually get to “know” Christ better and have greater fellowship with Him? How can our small group support one another in this pursuit?

### PRAY TOGETHER

Pray that God would help us let go of both past accomplishments and failures. Ask that He would reveal the plans He has for each of us to serve and honor Christ in our lives. Pray also for an increased desire to know Christ more.