

JOY



IN THE MIDST

WEEK 4: JOY...IN SPITE OF MY CHECKERED PAST (PHILIPPIANS 3)

WELCOME

What is the craziest or funniest excuse that you've given for a mistake that you've made?

WORD

1. In the video lesson, Keith Lewis said that Christ is our righteousness, Christ is our passion, and Christ is our hope. Currently, which of Keith's three descriptions of Christ do you resonate with the most?

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2. Read **Philippians 3:4-9**. What did Paul previously place his confidence in? Why did he place his confidence in such things? What previous achievement are you tempted to place your confidence in?

3. According to **Isaiah 61:10** and **Philippians 3:9-11**, what does Jesus want to give us? How do Jesus' gifts compel us to be joyful and place our confidence in Jesus alone?

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4. Has anything in “your past” ever been an obstacle to your spiritual growth? If you feel comfortable, share about what happened.

5. As described in **Philippians 3:13-14**, discuss practical ways you can do the following three things in your spiritual journey:

- “Forget what is behind”
- “Strain toward what is ahead”
- “Press on toward the goal”

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6. How might **Philippians 3:20-21** serve as a reason for joy despite your past and current difficulties?

WORSHIP

Sing a couple of worship songs together. Ask someone to play the guitar, play a YouTube video, or go acappella! ~OR~ Ask someone to read **Psalm 34** and then, give some time for people to voice whatever prayers that Psalm brings to their minds.

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WITNESS

How can you support one other as a group to grow in rejoicing in Christ alone? What steps can you take to encourage one another in this pursuit? How might that perspective of joy be a witness for Jesus?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

- Memorize **Philippians 3:13-14**.
- Technically, the past doesn't exist, but we can still feel its impact and consequences today. Jesus is timeless and always exists (**Hebrews 13:7**)... thus, His sacrifice and resurrection is timeless as well (**Revelation 13:8**, "...the Lamb who was slain for the creation of the world."). Spend some time reflecting on how Jesus' timelessness can help us move beyond our past and have joy and confidence in Jesus.
- Read the following passages: **Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 22:30; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; Romans 8:11, 16-23; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:35-57; Philippians 1:6; 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 John 3:1-3; and Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15.**
 - Answer the following in detail:
 - How are these verses similar?
 - What are the differences between these verses?
 - Which words in these verses stick out to you?
 - When will we be resurrected?
 - How is our resurrection described?
 - What will our resurrected bodies be like?