

Week of September 28: Philippians 3:1-14

**Seeing Jesus:**

**Encountering Him in the Epistles**



# Introduction

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About once a month, as part of the Sunday series, we will be looking at different pictures of who Jesus is in the Epistles. These weeks, rather than doing a traditional Bible Study, we will use different methods of engaging with Scripture.

This week we will use the Lightbulb Method of study, also known as the Swedish Method. This way of engaging with the text encourages being attentive to what God is saying to us.

## Study

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**Step 1:** Read through Philippians Chapter 3:1-14 (Individually or out loud if you prefer)

**1** Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. **2** Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

**7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ

Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**12** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**Step 2:** Allow 10-15 minutes for each person to go over the passage a few times on their own, while being on the lookout for the following and drawing the symbol (lightbulb, arrow, etc) beside the verse it applies to.



Something that 'shines' to you from the passage and draws your attention.



Anything hard to understand, any questions?



How does this text relate to your personal life? Do you see any application?



What would you like to share with someone else? Who will benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible today?

**Step 3:** Discussion: in each round have groups members share about one of the symbols.



1) In the first round, each person gets to share one of their 'light bulbs' with the group. It's always interesting to discover what has impacted different people.



2) In the second round, share one of the questions raised by the passage. When sharing your question, feel free to propose an approach to answering it, or you can interact with it as a group.



3) In this round, each person gets to share one of their personal applications, or if this Scripture spoke to them in a particular way today.



4) In the final round, share if there is a word of truth or encouragement you are taking away from the passage today? Who would you like to pass it on to either in person or in prayer?

## Prayer

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Break into small groups and take time praying specifically out of this passage.

Pray for each other around the application that God has pointed out to you.

Prayer for any people the God has brought to mind as needing encouragement or truth from this text.