

Study Guide #10 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of November 19, 2017

Title of the Lesson: Spiritual Mentors

As we read the New Testament, we learn that discipleship occurs by following the example of godly men and women. Like Timothy who was Paul's son in the faith, we benefit from having a spiritual mentor.

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

Philippians 3:12–4:1 (NIV)

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.

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Philippians 3:12 – 4:1. Let's review the scripture and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask what resonated with you the most and why?"
- Context Analysis: What is taking place right before and right after Paul's declaration of his example for others? What kind of perspective does this contextual information give you in regards to today's scripture?

- Philippians 3:15 talks about those who are mature (in the faith). As a group, take a moment and list characteristics of spiritually mature people.
- In Philippians 3:17, Paul tells us to follow his example and that of other believers “who live according to the pattern we gave you.” What do you think that Paul meant by this statement? Specifically, what was his example?
- As we think about following the example of someone, we think about spiritual mentorship. Name a person that God has put into your life that you have tried to emulate in your Christian walk? What was it about this person that made you choose them? (Take some time to hear from members of your group)
- Have you ever had a formal spiritual mentor (i.e., someone that you met with regularly for accountability and spiritual encouragement and direction)? If so, share with the group about your experience. If not, who might you consider asking to be your official spiritual mentor?
- On the flipside, have you ever been a spiritual mentor? If so, share with the group about your experience. If not, who might be a person that you could help guide in his/her faith?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- What do we learn about ourselves (mankind) from this passage?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.