



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation, as each group's needs and culture are different.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. The Journey Resources
- IV. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check-In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time to share prayer requests and pray together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) from the Group Life team.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for the Sermon given on June 16, 2024
by Pastor Tim Ghali

PARTNERS IN PERSEVERANCE – Philippians 3:1-21



I. **Introduction**

Welcome to week 4 of our Dear Church series. In week 1, we discussed Partnering in the Gospel. In week 2, we spoke about Partnering in Courage. Last week, we discussed Partnering in Humility, and this week, we will discuss Partnering in Perseverance.

Question: What do we gain in persevering in following Jesus?

Bottom Line: When we choose to persevere with Jesus, we receive identity and mission

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Readings:

Philippians 3:1-21

3 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^[a] 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.

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.

II. **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Tim began the message by confessing that he quit playing the piano when he was 13 years old.
 - a. What is something you quit?
 - b. Was it a good thing or a bad thing? Why did you quit?
2. Is there something you need to quit in order to fulfill the calling that God has on your life?
 - Are there God-given invitations for new habits or practices that you should embrace or persevere in?
3. Pastor Tim shared his own experience living the Christian half-life of broken religiosity rooted in self-righteousness and legalism.
 - Have you experienced this spiritual pride? If yes, share a specific example.
 - How did you become aware of it? Do you still struggle with it?
 - How could you protect yourself from sliding back into these Christian half-life habits?
4. Phil 3:2 refers to false teachers as Dogs, or as Pastor Tim called “Rats,” those who used the name of Jesus for their own personal gain.
 - What comes to mind when you think of modern-day false teaching?
 - How do you identify such teaching? And how should you protect yourself from their influence?
5. Read Phil 3:17:
¹⁷Join 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.
 - Do you have a group of Christ followers that you can look up to and turn to in times of trouble?
 - When we choose to persevere with Jesus, we receive identity and mission
 - How would you explain your Heavenly citizenship here on earth? What does your identity in Christ look like? What is your heavenly mission here on earth?

Take Home Message:

When living the way of Jesus makes you tired, weary, and you feel like giving up, remember that your true citizenship is in heaven. Let us follow the apostle Paul’s example, pressing on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward.

Let’s Pray

III. **The Journey**



We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines.
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Launching by the end of September: The newly revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

IV. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader connect the message to their group, combining insights from the Biblical text with opportunities in the life of our church.

Teaching Points:

- Philippians 3:1-21 is about Paul's concern for the people to persevere in the Christian life without being swayed by those who are self-righteous and legalistic.
- You want to die in direct reflection of how you lived. What does this look like as a Christian?
 - When we choose to persevere with Jesus, we receive identity and mission.