

Press On Toward the Goal

Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, January 3rd 2020



Sermon Title: Press On Toward the Goal

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:12-16; John 15:5-8; Ephesians 3:20-21

Sermon Focus: Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison, likely in Rome toward the end of his life. He writes to encourage Christians to press on in their pursuit of Christ like a runner does in a race. We need to hear this message as we enter a new year and begin to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Listen as Pastor David encourages us to press on in our faith by remembering who we are and what we're called to do.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Read Philippians 3:12-16 together. Take a moment to quietly reflect on the words Paul writes from prison to the church in Philippi. What particular words or phrases grab your attention? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing? What do you think Paul is trying to get his readers to do?
2. We all have different callings in life. We're not all passionate about the same things. And that's fine. However, the Apostle Paul invites his readers to share one thing in common: *knowing* Jesus. Paul said that this should be the "goal" we're pressing on toward as disciples. Knowing Jesus and being formed in his likeness is our primary objective. What do you think it looks like for a person to live this way? What does a church look like that has made this their goal?
3. Since knowing Jesus and being shaped into his likeness is our highest calling, why do you think it is that our lives so easily become about other things? Think about it. We rush out to fix the world and do something for God when we haven't given adequate attention to our own broken souls. We often neglect the deeper issues of the heart (personal sins, confession, forgiveness, reconciliation, repentance, prayer, healing, etc.) and of discipleship. Why is this problematic?
4. Name some things that we can do (as individuals and as a church) that are good, but too often come before knowing Jesus? What good things and holy pursuits can become idols if we're neglecting our own spiritual growth? Give examples.
5. Pastor David reminded our congregation about who we are and where we're going as a church (e.g. intergenerational, convergent, third way, etc.)—that we want to lead people to the God who looks like Jesus! Despite our challenges and imperfections, what excites you about being a part of Grantham Church? Why are you committed to Grantham? What gives you hope?
6. Pastor David invited our congregation to pray for several things as we begin a new year. Please close your time in prayer for the following:
 - Leadership at Grantham Church – pastoral team & church board
 - Search/Hiring Process and the Rebuilding of Church Staff
 - Development and Implementation of 5-year Mission & Vision
 - Increased Connection, Discipleship and Spiritual Growth
 - Increased Passion, Energy and Holy Momentum