

Dig Deeper @Home – “Immature”
Complement to lesson on 11/08/2020 – “A Mature Focus”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Talk about your greatest accomplishment or defeat when it comes to playing a sport.
2. Who do you look to as an example to mimic in your Christian life? What about their faith inspires you to follow Christ?

MEMORIZE – Philippians 1: 9-11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

READ Philippians 3:12- 4:1

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn't you like?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (hint: how many times do you see the phrase “*press on*”? What is this saying?)
3. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
4. Using the image of running a race, where does Paul picture himself in his spiritual life? (vv. 12-14) What is the *prize* he is after? Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. What does Paul say it takes to run the race with focus and discipline?
5. In Hebrews 12:1-3 the writer describes how to run the race. How does he say that we are to run the race? Who are we to keep our focus on?
6. In today's culture, who or what would you say are the “enemies of the cross”. (vs. 18) By contrast, what does it mean for us to be “citizens of heaven”? (vs. 20)

Experiential activity – “I Spy”

I spy is a guessing game where one player (the spy or it) chooses an object within sight and announces to the other players that "I spy with my little eye, something beginning with...", naming the first letter of the object. Other players attempt to guess this object. After each person has taking several turns take a few moments to talk about what we “focus our eyes” on as we go throughout the day. What does Paul encourage us as citizens of his kingdom to keep our eyes focused on? Talk about the ways you have “spied” God at work around you in this past week?

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

We Believe – Newsboys <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E00j5xGeDm8>

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZiI4>

I’m Pressing on the Upward way – Mennonite Hymnal #582

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Lord, as I go into this week, teach me to live with a perspective and focus on your kingdom and your will being done on earth as it is in heaven. Teach me to leave behind the peripheral distractions and to fix my eyes on the goal as I seek to run the race You have set before me. Amen.