

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2016**

**CURRENT SERIES: FINDING JOY**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1**

Icebreaker: Depending on your stage of life, some things may still be in the future: finishing a degree, finding a dream home, getting a raise, enjoying grandkids. Even though we don't have certain things yet, we can find joy even as we "work toward them." Share with one another what future things have brought joy in the journey, knowing the full benefits wouldn't be experienced until later?

1) Pursue Intentional Imitation (v 17). Jesus often invited people to follow Him, to imitate Him as part of their discipleship. Find places in the Gospels where Jesus called others to follow Him or imitate Him. Why is imitation so important in our growth? Who are you imitating and for what reasons?

2) Guard Against Worldly Enemies (v 18, 19). A sculptor was once asked how he made such beautiful sculptures from lumps of clay. He replied "I look at the clay and I take away everything that isn't part of the sculpture." Paul talks about avoiding certain things and certain influences so as to not deter our discipleship. He talks about people whose a) god is their belly= controlled by passions b) glory is their shame= pride c) mind set on earthly things= priority d) end is destruction= pain. Which one of these areas has an undue influence in your life? Share with the group. Look up the name Demas in Scripture and trace his story from beginning to end.

3) Recognize How the Eternal Impacts the Present (v 20, 21). There is a saying that goes, "He is so heavenly minded that he is of no earthly good." This is really not a true statement. All of us are not heavenly minded enough. As a believer in Christ your identity in Christ should influence your daily actions. What are things that are true of you as a believer in Jesus Christ? How should these truths influence your actions as a believer in Christ?

4) Resolve to Stand Firm (4:1). If we don't stand for anything, we will fall for everything. What are the truths that we must stand for as believers? What are the things that we must hold onto tightly?

