



## MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, October 18, 2026

**Title:** Rewriting Our Stories

**Text:** Philippians 3:2-11

**Big Idea:** Being a part of God's story rewrites our own stories

Stories are frameworks that give our lives meaning.

### 1. Being a part of God's story rewrites our own stories

Philippians 3:2 Watch out for the dogs, watch out for the evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh.

- False Story: A good story belongs to good people.
- True Story: A good story is built on a gracious God.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh...

Philippians 3:9 ...not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.

- False Story: Your achievements give your story meaning and purpose.

Philippians 3:4 If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more...

### 2. The Story Paul Was Writing

#### a. The Right Family

Philippians 3:5a ... [I was] circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews...

Acts 22:3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city (Jerusalem)..."

#### b. The Right Training

Philippians 3:5b ...regarding the law, a Pharisee...

Acts 22:3 "(I was) educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strictness of our ancestral law."

Acts 5:34 (There was) a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was respected by all the people...

### c. The Right Passion

Philippians 3:6a ...regarding zeal, persecuting the church...

Acts 22:3 "I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today."

### d. The Right Behaviors

Philippians 3:6b ...regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

3. The story Paul has been writing collapsed when he finally encountered Jesus.

"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer." – Jim Carrey

- False Story: Your story's worth comes from what you achieve.
- True Story: Your story's worth comes from knowing Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-8a But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Philippians 3:8 Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him...

- False Story: Your story ends here, so protect your comfort at all costs.
- True Story: Resurrection is coming, so follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

Philippians 3:10-11 My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Romans 8:18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field."

4. Being a part of God's story rewrites our own stories.

- Jesus gives us a better story.
- Jesus can rewrite anyone's story.
- Jesus is ready to rewrite your story.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!



# LIFEGROUPS

## MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sunday, October 18, 2026

### LOOK BACK (5-10 MINUTES)

Open your group with a moment to **connect** and look back.

1. How is everyone doing? Did anything notable happen this week?
2. Did anything in the reading for this week impact you?

### DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (30-45 MINUTES)

We're in a study of Philippians, a letter written by the Apostle Paul from a prison cell. This letter is a powerful picture of a life fully centered on Jesus—where every circumstance, every relationship, and every decision is shaped by one defining reality: Jesus is everything. Philippians invites us out of a life of observation and into a life of participation. It calls us to reorient everything around Jesus—to say with Paul, "For me, to live is Christ." And as we do, we discover that this kind of life isn't a burden—it's where real joy is found. This week, we are in **Philippians 3:2-11**, and the big idea is: **Being a part of God's story rewrites our own stories.**

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Have someone read **Philippians 3:4-6** and **Acts 22:3**. Paul lists his impeccable credentials, including the right family, pedigree, education under Gamaliel, zeal, and blameless law-keeping. Why are religious or moral achievements often the hardest things to surrender when coming to a gracious God?
2. Have someone read **Philippians 3:7-9**. Paul describes his former gains as "loss" and "dung" so that he might gain Christ and have a righteousness based on faith rather than the law. How does exchanging our own resume for Christ's righteousness fundamentally change where we find our daily value and meaning?
3. Have someone read **Philippians 3:10-11** alongside **Matthew 13:44**. Rather than protecting his own comfort, Paul eagerly desires to share in Christ's sufferings and the power of his resurrection. How does an eternal perspective of resurrection give us the joy and courage to let go of earthly comfort?
4. The sermon warns against the false belief that our worth comes from what we achieve rather than from knowing Jesus. In what specific area of your life do you need to **grow** in resting in Christ's righteousness instead of trying to prove your worth through your performance?
5. Since Jesus can rewrite anyone's story and make them a new creation, how can you **go** to someone in your sphere of influence this week who feels trapped by their past and point them to the hope found in Christ's story?

### CLOSE AND PRAY (5-10 MINUTES)

As the discussion comes to a close, transition to a time of prayer. Praying together is one of the best ways for your group to **connect**. Often, splitting into smaller groups for prayer can be beneficial. This can look many different ways, but the goal is for your group to be comfortable praying together, sharing what is really going on in your lives, and asking God to work as you follow Jesus together.