



MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Title: Do we really pursue Jesus or does he pursue us?

Texts: Philippians 3:12-4:1

Big Idea: Our part in Jesus' story is to run after the God who has run after us.

Our part in Jesus' story is to run after the God who has run after us.

Running the race

1. The goal = to know and become like Jesus

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

Running the race

1. The goal = to know and become like Jesus
2. The prize = eternal life with Jesus

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:15 Therefore, let all of us who are mature think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you.

What is maturity?

Mature = teleioi

Perfect = teteleiomai

Philippians 3:16 In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained.

Philippians 3:17 Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 3:18-19 For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things.

Philippians 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

Running the race

1. The goal = to know and become like Jesus
2. The prize = eternal life with Jesus
3. The crown = the fruit of obedience

Philippians 4:1 So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, in this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

How are you pursuing Jesus?

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, ² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



LIFEGROUPS

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sunday, October 25, 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 3:12-4:1**, and the big idea is: **Our part in Jesus' story is to run after the God who has run after us.**

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 3:12-14**. Paul insists he has not already arrived at perfection but makes every effort to take hold of the prize because Christ has taken hold of him. How does knowing that Jesus has already secured us motivate our effort to pursue him rather than causing us to become spiritually lazy?
2. Have someone read **Philippians 3:17-19**. Paul warns with tears about those who walk as "enemies of the cross," whose god is their stomach and whose minds are set on earthly things. What are some common earthly distractions that threaten to pull our attention away from running the spiritual race set before us?
3. Have someone read **Philippians 3:20-21** and **Philippians 4:1**. Paul reminds the church that our citizenship is in heaven and urges them to stand firm as his joy and crown. How does keeping an eager expectation of Christ's return and bodily transformation help us endure present struggles?
4. The sermon defines spiritual maturity not as having arrived, but as forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. What past mistake, regret, or past accomplishment do you need to let go of so you can **grow** in running your race with endurance?
5. Have someone read **Hebrews 12:1-2**. Since running this race requires laying aside hindrances and fixing our eyes on Jesus, how can you **go** and come alongside someone in your circle this week who feels tired or ready to give up, helping them refocus on Christ?

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.