

# Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*THE FINISH LINE*

*Philippians 3:12-14, 20-21*

Stuart Jones - November 6, 2016



## INTRODUCTION

In Philippians 3:12–21, Paul encourages us to pursue a life dedicated to developing intimacy with Jesus, which leads to significance, purpose, and joy in this life and the life to come. In urging us to set our earthly goals on heavenly gains, he refers to this pursuit as a race to win the prize.

At the foot of one of the Swiss Alps is a marker honoring a man who fell to his death while attempting to climb to the top. The marker gives his name and then the words, “He died climbing.” We should be able to say with confidence “we died climbing” as we pressed onward toward the prize of grabbing hold of Christ Jesus and living like Him.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

1. What has been a finish line in your life you are particularly proud of (college graduation, completion of a marathon, honorable discharge from military, retirement, etc.)?
2. In your ideal life, are you more like the pioneer (always pushing on) or the settler (settling down)?

## EVALUATE IT

1. Paul says he forgets what is behind. However, looking backward and reflecting on the past is not necessarily a bad thing. When does reflecting on the past become a detriment to the present?
2. Read Philippians 3:13. Why is it important that Paul clarifies he has not yet reached the goal? Why is it dangerous to think we’ve “arrived” in our Christian faith?
3. What is the goal we’re pressing toward? Does pressing on require us to be perfect? Why or why not?
4. Read Philippians 3:20-21. What does it mean to be a citizen of Heaven and an heir of God’s Kingdom? What hope do you find in verses 20–21? Why does it bring you hope?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Stuart said, "No matter how the forces of our world seem to be moving against it, at the finish line, His Kingdom prevails." Where are you standing still? Where do you need to press on?
2. What does it look like to eagerly await Christ's return? For instance, how might we spend our time if we are eagerly waiting?

## ILLUSTRATION

Hours behind the runner in front of him, the last marathoner finally entered the Olympic stadium. By that time, the drama of the day's events was almost over and most of the spectators had gone home. This athlete's story, however, was still being played out.

Limping into the arena, the Tanzanian runner grimaced with every step, his knee bleeding and bandaged from an earlier fall. His ragged appearance immediately caught the attention of the remaining crowd, who cheered him on to the finish line.

Why did he stay in the race? What made him endure his injuries to the end? When asked these questions later, he replied, "My country did not send me 7,000 miles away to start the race. They sent me 7,000 miles to finish it."

-Quote Magazine, July 1991



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?  
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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