

# Image Bearer – Week 4

## High School Ministry Teaching Guide

### BIG IDEA

You don't have to earn God's love. You are made right with Him through Jesus, not through being perfect.

### BIBLE

Philippians 3:4-9

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

You don't have to earn your way to God—He already did the work through Jesus. When you trust in Christ, your identity isn't "what I've done," but "who I belong to." Real freedom comes from resting in grace, not striving for approval.

#### WHAT?

- Have you ever felt like you needed to prove yourself to your parents, your teachers, your coaches, your friends... or even God?
- High school is full of pressure to perform, to succeed, to maintain an image. It's easy to think we have to do the same thing with God.
- But the Gospel tells us something radically different: You don't have to be perfect to be loved. You're made right with God through faith, not performance.
- In Philippians 3:4-9 Paul lists all the reason he could've thought he was "good enough" – his background, his rule-following, his religious reputation. But then he says something shocking: None of that matters.
- In verses 7-9, Paul says everything he thought was impressive is now worthless compared to knowing Christ.
- His identity no longer comes from achievement, but from Jesus.
- His righteousness (being made right with God) isn't something he earned. It's something he received.
- Being made right with God isn't about what you can do. It's about what Jesus already did.
- Your value isn't earned. It's given.

#### SO WHAT?

- If you think your worth comes from being "good enough," you'll always feel like you're not.
- If you build your identity on your wins, your identity will collapse when you fail.
- But if your identity is rooted in grace, you can have peace, because you know you're already loved.

#### NOW WHAT?

- **Challenge:** Let go of the pressure to be perfect this week. When you mess up, don't hide from God, run to Him.
- When you feel like you're not enough, remind yourself: "Jesus is enough for me- and I'm already made right with God through Him".
- **Next Step:** Write out Philippians 3:9 and tape it to your mirror, notebook, or put it as your phone background.
- Have an honest conversation with a trusted adult about the pressure you feel to perform.