

WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE

IMAGE BEARER

THIS WEEK

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 3:4-11

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.

Let's Break the Ice // [Optional: Discipleship Moment Follow Up]:

- For last week's discipleship moment, we challenged each other to spend less time on things that distract us from God, and instead spend more time with Him. How did it go?
- Where in life do you feel the most pressure to prove yourself?

Bible Study:

- Read Together: As a group, read Philippians 3:4-11 NIV
 - Telos Bible Page Numbers: Philippians 3:4-11 (pg 1161)

Discussion Questions:

- Paul lists all the reasons he could brag about being "good enough." Why does he say those things are now worthless?
- What does it mean to be made right with God? Not because of what we do, but because of what Jesus did?
- How is building your identity on accomplishments different from building it on the grace of God?
- Why is it so hard at times to believe that God loves us without us having to earn it?

Make it Real:

- What would change in your week if you really believed you didn't have to prove yourself to God?
- How does knowing we're already loved change the way we view God?

Prayer

Share Requests:

- Ask for any prayer requests or praises to celebrate together.

Group Prayer:

- Thank God that we don't have to earn His love. Pray that we will all become more aware of His love for us and to experience peace from that.

(GROW DEEPER - OPTIONAL) Discipleship Moment:

Worship: This week, find some time to sit down and listen to the song "Jireh" by Maverick City Music. Let the words sink into your heart and reflect on the truth that God loves you for you. Write down anything you feel God may be telling you during that time, and we'll share stories next week!

Partner Check-In: Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner either sometime during the week or during your next gathering.