



## LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of November 20, 2023

1. When you were in your late teens or early twenties, what were some of your big goals for life? Acquire a good job? Get married? College? Save money? Share some of your personal goals. Were you able to achieve any of them?
2. Have someone in the group read Philippians 3:12-16. How would you summarize this section of Scripture in your own words?
3. Paul understood that he hadn't arrived spiritually. He wasn't "perfected" yet. But he was pressing on into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. What are some practical ways that a Christian can experience a deeper relationship with Christ? Make a brief list here:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Some Christians struggle to experience significant spiritual progress because they are hindered by poor choices, bad decisions, or significant sins from their past. Ex: a divorce, an abortion, alcoholism, bankruptcy, criminal conviction, an affair, domestic violence, addiction. Paul had a very unsavory past, but what was his viewpoint on his past? How can Ephesians 1:7 and 1 John 1:9 be a help to the Christian struggling with their past?
5. Paul was passionate about "...reaching forward" in pursuit of the dynamic Christian life. He described it as his "...one thing". While Paul was focused, many Christians today are distracted by lesser things. What are some of the things distracting us from a deeper Christian life? What things do we "prize" and prioritize more than our relationship with Jesus? Give some specific examples.
6. If the Christian's ultimate prize is "upward", then how should that affect our mindset and choices in the here and now? Read 2 Corinthians 4:18, Colossians 3:1-4, and Psalm 73:25. In view of these verses, how does your mindset need to be adjusted?
7. How are your goals changing as you get older and more mature as a Christian? What seems less important now? What is more valuable and more worthwhile to you?

Paul knew exactly what his "one thing" was as a devoted Christian. Do you? (see Matthew 6:33)