

OVERVIEW

Absolutely nothing compares to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ as Lord.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: What is one skill that you have that you could brag about?

PRAYER

Pray: Ask God to help you turn away from the flesh and the world and pursue the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus.

BIBLE: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

1. What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
2. If the problem with those promoting circumcision had gone unchallenged, how would this have distorted the gospel and hurt the church?
3. In verse 4-6, what reasons did Paul have to put confidence in his flesh? What reasons may you have to put confidence in your own flesh? Like Paul, write a list of your own abilities, knowledge, education, or accolades.
4. For Paul, what was thought to be "gain" (or of great worth) turned out to be "loss" (worthless). As a Christian, how have your values or thinking changed regarding what is important and what is not so important?

APPLICATION

1. Often times, Christmas is hijacked by decorations, presents, busy schedules, and Santa Claus. With today's passage in mind, how will you keep Jesus (the all-encompassing gift who cannot be supplemented and with whom nothing can compete) central in your Christmas celebrations?
2. We are continually in battle with our "flesh" (reliance on self, confidence in our own abilities). Take a moment to reflect on all your achievements and successes. How does it compare to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus? Like Paul, can you declare in your heart that all is "loss" or "garbage" (literally "dung") in comparison? Ask the Holy Spirit to convict your heart and renew your faith in Jesus.
3. Pray for one person that does not know Jesus and ask them to join you for the Christmas Eve service.