

## Leader Corner

Imitating Christ

Philippians 2:19-30; 3:12-4:1

This series focuses on Jesus himself as the center of our faith. We are called to turn our eyes on him. When that happens, our lives can be reoriented toward Jesus. This week is a great passage of Scripture to help us talk about how we mirror Jesus through our lives to the people around us.

**Main Idea:** Imitate Christ

**Main Practice:** We were made in His image, and His image is what He calls us to.

**Main Teaching:** Philippians 2:19-30; 3:12-4:1

## Refocus with Praise

Read together Psalm 34 for an example of David testifying for what God has done for him.

**1** I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. **2** I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. **3** Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. **4** I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. **5** Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. **6** In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. **7** For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. **8** Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! **9** Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. **10** Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing. **11** Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord. **12** Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? **13** Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! **14** Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. **15** The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. **16** But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. **17** The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. **18** The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. **19** The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. **20** For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken! **21** Calamity will surely destroy the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. **22** But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

## with Prayer

Ephesians 5:1 states "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Pray you and your group could become more like Him this week.

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## Principle

1. Read Philippians 2:19-30; 3:12-4:1 as a group. What central truths are present?
2. What goal was Paul working toward? What did he have yet to do to attain it?
3. What does Paul mean by "mature?" What does a mature Christian look like?
4. Paul says to "keep your eye on those who live as we do." What Christians do you keep your eye on? Why and what do you see in them?
5. We all have circles of influence. With that, what about your life with Jesus would you want others to imitate? What about your life with Jesus would you not want others to imitate?

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## Practice

God will accomplish His work, which is to make you like Him. Pray He would take you and start that work this week, then believe He really has.

### For Further Focus

Study the following passages: Philippians 4:9 and 1 Corinthians 4:16. How would someone you work with or live with say that they have seen your faith mature over the last 6-12 months?