

LIFE
TOGETHER
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pilgrim's Progress

1 Corinthians 9.24-10.14

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- **Christmas Choir | Sunday, December 17** | Calling all singers! Join us in our first ever experiment with a choir. We'll sing at both services on 12/17. We'll have 4 rehearsals (11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10) from 7-8pm. If you're interested, visit The City and join the Choir group.
- **Christmas Store | Saturday, December 9** | The Christmas Store is a collaboration between New City Church and New Life Temple to serve need-based families in the community. Join us by Praying, Serving or Giving! Visit The City for all of the details and don't forget to grab an ornament from the Christmas Tree in the Commons starting next week! Your unwrapped gifts should be returned on or before Sunday, November 26th. Know a need-based family who would be blessed by the Christmas Store this year? Have them go to <http://newcitycincy.org/christmas-store> for more information or to register as a shopper.
- **Give and Take Free Sale | Saturday, November 18th 9-11am** | Visit the City to learn more about ways to serve, what to donate, & what to expect to find at the Sale! Please drop off all items in the bins outside the mechanical room before November 17th.
- **PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE for City Gospel Mission** | City Gospel Mission has asked New City to provide 275 15oz jars of peanut butter for their annual Thanksgiving Food Exchange again this year. If you're willing and able to help with the drive, you can drop off your jars of peanut butter in the Commons or on the Kersey's front porch (4413 Floral Ave). The deadline to bring the peanut butter in is Sunday, November 12th.

Again this week, talk briefly about your group's format and schedule for the semester.

We're here to know and experience Jesus Christ. He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in their midst." Even as we talk tonight, let's be conscious of the promise Jesus makes to be here with us.

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer:

Father, we thank you for the chance to be together tonight. As we talk and reflect on the Scriptures, may we take these things to heart. Help us to bring our lives more and more under the direction and care of your Word. Bear with us when we fail. Help us to help each other. Amen.

OPENER

What Olympic sport would you most like to win the gold medal in? Why?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

This is the last week in our series called "Life Together" (though we'll still be dipping in and out of 1 Corinthians for awhile) Today we look at the end of chapter 9 and the beginning of chapter 10..

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9.24 - 10.14

2. At the end of chapter 9, Paul uses athletic metaphors, which would have been especially appropriate in ancient Corinth, the site of the Isthmian Games. How would you summarize Paul's main point in 9:24-27?
3. Dallas Willard writes, "*Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude; effort is an action.*" Do you agree with this? If so, why is this distinction important?
4. In verse 25, Paul mentions "self-control." Galatians 5 refers to self-control as a fruit of the Spirit. Why is self-control important in our journey with God?
5. What is the "imperishable" prize that Paul says we should be running for? How would your life be different if you really were running for it? What are you tempted to run for instead?
6. 10.1-10 - Paul tells the story of Israel as a cautionary tale. What do the Corinthians have in common with the Israelites?
7. In what ways were the Israelites derailed in their walk with God? Which of these are you most prone to?
8. 10.11-13 - What help has God given us in our walk with Christ? Are there any practical steps God is calling you to THIS WEEK?
9. **Read the Companion Handout together.** What stands to you as significant or helpful?

PRAYER:

Spend some time together in prayer. In the early weeks, this can be a challenge for a group just getting to know one another. You may elect to just lead the group in a closing prayer, pray together as a large group, or break into smaller groups to pray. You can share requests, or simply pray about the things you discussed tonight.

COMPANION HANDOUT

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

“The strenuous self-denial of the athlete as he sought a fleeting reward is a rebuke to half-hearted flabby Christian service.” (Leon Morris)

“Self-control is our ability as image-bearers of God to rule over our impulses for a greater good.” (Abraham Cho)

“Depth, the core of our being, is something we cultivate over time. We form relationships that either turn the core piece of ourselves into something more stable and disciplined or something more fragmented and disorderly. We begin with our natural [impulses] but carve out depths according to the quality of the commitments we make... So much of what we call depth is built through [fighting against our natural evolutionary impulses].” (David Brooks)

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3.13)