

LESSON 69

# Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

PHILIPPIANS 3:3-21



**BIBLE TRUTH**

ALL OUR RELIGIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE NOTHING  
COMPARED WITH KNOWING CHRIST

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

**1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Philippians 3:3–21 from the Scriptures or read story 147, “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**The Greatest**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Christ’s Great Worth**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ penny
- ✓ nickel
- ✓ dime
- ✓ quarter
- ✓ small chocolate bar
- ✓ small snack bag of pretzels
- ✓ pack of gum
- ✓ large bag of chocolate candy

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 69—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON ..... 10 MIN

Your Greatest Deeds

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**All religious works are worthless apart from Christ**—Paul had every reason to boast about his religious accomplishments. Not only was he born a Jew, but he also followed the law given by God almost perfectly (Philippians 3:6). He was so full of zeal that he persecuted Christians, who he believed threatened to undermine the Jewish traditions given by God. But once God opened Paul’s eyes, he saw his sin and how worthless his works were to save him. Paul gladly gave up trusting in his accomplishments to trust in what Jesus had accomplished for him. Paul walked away from his occupation as a Jewish religious leader on the spot. He stopped trusting in his heritage as a Jew and turned to trust in Jesus. Instead of being an instructor of legalism, Paul became an instructor of grace!

**All accomplishments are rubbish compared with gaining Christ**—Paul didn’t stop with his religious works. He went on to say that he considered everything a loss compared with knowing Jesus (Philippians 3:8). Often we find our identity in our gifts, knowledge, or accomplishments. If a person is a good football player, for instance, he might be tempted to think he is something special because of his ability to play well. Paul realized that boasting in anything but Christ is sinful. It is not that our gifts, talents, or accomplishments are bad, but they should not define us. Compared with Christ, Paul tells us they are rubbish. The word for “rubbish” means the scraps thrown to the dogs at the end of a feast.

**All of our future is defined by pursuing Christ**—Paul’s greatest desire was to know Jesus more fully (Philippians 3:10). He abandoned trusting in his accomplishments and pressed on to trust in Christ. Paul no longer lived for this world and its treasures and glory. He set his sights on heaven and living with Jesus (Philippians 3:14). Like Paul, we too should set our sights on living in heaven with Christ (Philippians 3:17). When we live for Christ, earthly accomplishments and treasures do not easily tempt us. Although Paul longed to live a life completely dedicated to loving Jesus, he was quick to remind us that he was not perfect (Philippians 3:12). Like us, he still struggled with sin. Even so, Paul pressed on to know Christ, realizing that one day he would see Jesus.

## Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Rather than complain at the end of his days, Paul saw his own struggle through the lens of the gospel. Knowing that Jesus suffered in his mission to live a righteous life, Paul realized he too would have to suffer in following Jesus. When we consider that the world of sin and the enemy opposed Jesus on his way to the cross, we should not be surprised when we find persecution and suffering in our lives as well. Jesus said. "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

In thinking about his suffering, Paul identified with the suffering of Christ upon the cross (Philippians 3:10). Paul saw his suffering for the gospel as following Jesus in some small way and counted it a privilege to suffer for the cause of the one who gave his life for him. We, like Paul, should not be surprised at suffering. It is a part of the path of every Christian—some certainly greater than others.

### THE LESSON

**OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Philippians 3:3–21 from the Scriptures or read story 147, "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**The Greatest**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Ask the class who they think is the greatest athlete, the greatest musician, and the greatest movie star. Write their first, second, and third choices on the board. Then ask them who they would most want to be like and why.

Listen to their answers and then write Jesus Christ on the board. Ask them who they most want to be like now. They should all say Jesus. Ask them why they gave that response as some might not know why.

Read through Paul’s reasoning in Philippians 3:7–11 and then draw out the class as to why we should want to be like Jesus. Help the children see just how much our culture celebrates earthly accomplishments and people. Paul considered them all rubbish compared to Christ.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Christ’s Great Worth**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ penny
- ✓ nickel
- ✓ dime
- ✓ quarter
- ✓ small chocolate bar
- ✓ small snack bag of pretzels
- ✓ pack of gum
- ✓ large bag of chocolate candy
- ✓ Things that we might value pale in comparison when we understand the value of Christ. That is what happened to Paul.

Lay out a penny, a nickel, and a dime on a table. Ask for a volunteer and invite them to take one of the three to keep. They will choose the dime because it is worth more. Ask them why they took the dime and if they are satisfied with their choice. Ask them if they feel good about getting a free dime. (They are likely to say yes.)

Take the penny and nickel away and put a quarter, a small chocolate bar, a bag of pretzels, and a pack of gum on the table. Invite a new volunteer to come up and make a similar choice.

Go back to your first volunteer and ask her if her thoughts about her dime are changing. She is likely to say yes. Ask her if she might like to trade in her dime. If she says yes, ask her why. She is likely to say that the items now available are better than the dime. Help her to see how her affections for the dime have changed, as well as her understanding of its value.

Give her the opportunity to trade. Now take out the large bag of candy and place it on the table. The class should get very excited and you should have many children volunteering. Draw them out as to why they are so excited to volunteer and what they would pick if they had the chance.

Choose one more volunteer. This time tell him he can choose one item to share with the class. He should pick the bag of candy, to the delight of all the class.

Help them to see the connection to Paul's message to the Philippians in Philippians 3:4–14. Paul thought his works were valuable until he understood the work of Christ. Christ was so much more excellent than Paul's accomplishments that he called his own works rubbish (like the large bag of candy compared to the penny).

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 69—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What are the people in the picture doing?  
*(running in a race)*

- Who is at the finish line of the race?

*(Jesus)*

- Why would people run a race to win Jesus as their prize?

*(Jesus is the best prize because he died on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven. Jesus promises to come to those who believe in him and live in their hearts by his Holy Spirit. Those who understand how wonderful that is would gladly give everything to have Jesus as their prize possession living inside of them.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Your Greatest Deeds**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Ask the class to tell you a list of the greatest accomplishments of mankind. They might mention walking on the moon or discovering a cure for cancer. Make a list of about ten and then assign to each a number from one to ten, one being the greatest. (If they mention Jesus, commend them, but keep his work off this list.) Now, ask the class to imagine one person doing all of them.

Label the first list with the letter A. Next to the first list, start a new list and label it B. Under B write the words, "Trusting in Jesus who died for my sins so I could be forgiven." Ask the class if they had to choose between list A or B and their future in eternity depended on their choice, which one would they choose and why. (The answer, of course, is list B and trusting in what Jesus accomplished for them.) Use this exercise to help them understand Paul's statement that he counted everything "as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus [his] Lord" (Philippians 3:8).



