

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16



The STORY

Read about keeping your eyes on the prize in Philippians 3:12-16.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Why do people run races? (People run races to find out who is the fastest and to win the race.)
- If there was a prize for winning a race, how fast would that make you want to run? (The more you wanted the prize, the faster you would run.)
- If you could have any prize for running a race, what prize would you want? (Accept any answer.)
- What prize did Paul want? (Paul wanted Jesus, see Philippians 3:8.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a man and woman running a race toward a finish line with Jesus at the finish line. Engage the children by asking:

- 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? (Elicit a Gospel answer. 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 up to have Jesus as their prize possession living inside of them.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Have you ever been in a race? (Accept any answer.)
- Did you know we are all in a race? (Yes, we are all in a race to get to Jesus. The Bible says that if we seek Him with all our heart we will find Him, see Deuteronomy. 4:29. That is what Paul is referring to, seeking after Christ and His will for our lives.)
- What is the best way to win a race? (Run with all your strength. Compare this to Luke 10:27 and how we are to relate to God.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul refers to being called heavenward, "in Christ Jesus." In 1 Corinthians 1:30 Paul says about this life "that Christ has become our sanctification and redemption and our only boast is in him." The truth is, we have no life apart from Christ.

The very expression of "in Christ Jesus" refers to believing in His atoning sacrifice through which we are saved from death, and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. Paul is able to press on to win the prize because he was called by way of the Gospel to live a new, changed life in Christ.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.



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GOD'S STORY

CLASSROOM LESSON

NT LESSON SIXTY-NINE

