"Getting Over Me"

Philippians 3:1-11

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell
Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Group Study Introduction

Use the following questions and exercises as your group time allows. Feel free to skip one or more questions in each section as necessary. If you have less then thirty minutes for group discussion, we recommend skipping the "Getting Started" section. Be sure to save time for prayer at the end of your meeting, using the "Strength through Prayer" section.

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell tells about the time when his daughter, Libby, asked, "Dad, are we famous?" When Joe said no, Libby paused and then replied rather indignantly, "Well, we would be if more people knew about us!"

Joe offers this story as an illustration of how a 6-year-old child was already struggling with the huge monster called "me."

•How have you seen a child—your own child, grandchild, or some other youngster—struggling with that monster?

•Do you agree with Joe that life happens to always be, for the most part, "all about me"?

Strength through Scripture:

Open your Bibles to Philippians 3 and have a volunteer read verses 1-11 out loud.

1. How much can you relate to Joe's sentiment that he is tired of himself?

2. How much can you relate to Joe's sentiment that he never gets tired of Jesus?

3. What do you think Paul means by his exhortation to "rejoice in the Lord" in Philippians 3:1?

Notes:

"Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you."

Philippians 3:1

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4. Do you agree with Joe that it doesn't mean being "happy in Jesus," regardless of circumstances, 24 hours a day?

5. What does Joe mean by saying that "Jesus doesn't share space"?

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you've listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. Have one member of the group read Jeremiah 9:23-24 out loud. What does this Scripture passage tell us about boasting?

2. In Philippians 3, Paul is warning the Philippians about Judaizers—Jewish believers who had come to the cross but had forgotten the lesson of the book of Hebrews: Jesus canceled the requirements of the law. How do these Judaizers illustrate Joe's principle that "the better you get, the worse you might become"?

3. What stands out as you read Paul's list of credentials in Philippians 3:4-7?

Strength through Sharing:

1. As Paul listed his credentials in Philippians 3:4-7, what are the credentials, or bragging rights, in your life?

2. What is more valuable to you—Jesus, or the things that keep you stuck on yourself?

Notes:

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Notes:

Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Tell God that you don't want your life to be "all about me."

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Lord Jesus, I want to stop rejoicing in myself and start rejoicing in You. I don't want my life to be self-absorbed; I want it to be about You—a Savior who is adored. I don't want to celebrate my credentials; I want to celebrate the worthiness of Your credentials. In You alone do I boast."

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

Closing Call to Action:

As Paul listed his credentials in this text, list the credentials in your life. What are your bragging rights? For example, do you see yourself as clever, intellectual, aesthetic, creative, a good parent, or someone who has won trophies?
Now look at Jesus. What is more valuable to you—Jesus, or the things that keep you stuck on yourself?

Lastly, cross out your list of credentials and turn your eyes to Jesus. As you do that, reflectively read Philippians 3:1-11.

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