"Getting Over me"

Philippians 3:1-11



"Getting Over Me"

Lesson 2 Lesson 3

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 3:1-11

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 shares that on the horizon he can see the day coming, if he doesn't die first, when he will end up in some nursing home, sitting over in some corner in a chair, waiting for the lunch bell to ring.

- Do you have a positive memory of a nursing home? How about a negative memory?
- Can you identify with Joe's reflection that if life has been all about Jesus, then that day will actually be a good day?

Strength through Scripture:

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

- 1. In this passage, Paul tells us how or where intimate fellowship with Jesus is made available to us. The first place, which Joe shared in the previous segment, is when Christ delivers us from sin in the midst of temptation through His resurrection power. The second place is in the fellowship of His sufferings. How easy is it for you to think you're off the hook because you're not going to a cross?
- 2. Can you recall a shared experience with Jesus in His sufferings, in which your loneliness, betrayal, rejection, or physical pain caused you to have a deeper appreciation for what He went through because of His love for you?

"Getting Over Me"



- 3. How hard is it for you to meet Christ in the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, instead of always crying out, "Lord, get me out of this"?
- 4. The third place where we can meet Jesus in intimate fellowship is in total surrender, becoming like Him in His death. How did Jesus demonstrate such surrender beyond the cross, particularly at Gethsemane?
- 5. Joe warns that once you meet Jesus in total surrender, watch out—because, like Him, you will have a lot of opportunities to bail out on that surrender. How have you found that to be true in your life?

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. Why would Paul encourage us to consider all the good things about our lives to be like dung?
- 2. What does Joe mean by saying that Christ's sufferings were 33 years long?
- 3. How do you respond to Joe's statement that you probably wouldn't have thought you would meet Jesus in the midst of seduction, suffering, and surrender—but that's where intimacy with Jesus is experienced?

Strength through Sharing:

- 1. Read the "Call to Action" below. How would you answer the question Joe posed to Billy Graham: What have you have enjoyed most about your life?
- 2. Do you share Joe's desire to have your answer be like Billy Graham's—that what you most enjoy in life is your fellowship with Jesus?

Notes:	
	• • • •
	••••
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	• • • •
	••••
	• • • •
	• • • •

"Getting Over Me"



ioles.	•		

Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. As Joe says, if you wonder why Jesus feels so historical, so church-related, so far away, it may be that life has been for too long all about you and not about Him and you haven't known where to meet Him to satisfy the intimacy you long for in your soul.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Lord Jesus, I want to know You and the power of Your resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in Your sufferings, becoming like You in Your death. I desire to meet You in my sufferings rather than simply to plead to escape them. I desire to meet You in intimate fellowship through total surrender. May my relationship with You be the most important and enjoyable thing in my life."

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:

Joe concludes his message with stories about two men who were born about the same time: Billy Graham and Chuck Templeton. As young men, both were great preachers, as well as best friends.

Chuck Templeton turned his back on God and became an agnostic, saying that he could no longer believe in God. After leaving the ministry, he became quite successful in politics and other endeavors.

Lee Strobel interviewed Chuck Templeton not long before Templeton's death. Strobel asked him if he ever regretted turning his back on God. "Absolutely not," Templeton replied and then launched into a tirade about how he couldn't reconcile the God of the Bible with the suffering he sees in this world.

"Getting Over Me"



Notes:

"But what about Jesus?" Strobel asked.

Templeton paused, and then said, "I think Jesus is the most important, the most pivotal, person in history." He then buried his face in his hands and began sobbing. And through his sobs he said, "I miss Him."

Joe had the privilege to sit next to Billy Graham at a dinner a while back. Joe asked him, "What has been the thing you have enjoyed most about your life?" Joe thought perhaps that Dr. Graham's answer would be about meeting with presidents and heads of state, or preaching the gospel to millions of people all over the world.

But his answer was: "By far and away, the thing I have enjoyed most about my life is my fellowship with Jesus—the privilege of having walked with Him, having been guided by Him, having Him talk to me and talking to Him—His presence in my life."

Two friends, two dramatically separate paths. At the end of one: "I miss Him." At the end of the other: "He's been the most to me."

Where would you like to be at the end of your life—having treasured Jesus, or wishing you had lived to experience him more deeply?

Read through Philippians 3:1-11. What do you have to do to change your perspective on the things that make you feel good about yourself? Are you willing to count Jesus as the most valued treasure in your life?

Think of the times when you are tempted, suffer, or struggle with surrendering to God's will and plan for you. Commit now to meeting Jesus in those situations and to choosing to demonstrate His priority in your life in an active way.