



**Home Teams**  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

# RESTORE

CONTINUING THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**WEEK 4:** From Self-Sufficiency to Surrender

## 📌 Big Idea

God is honored when we trust Him and surrender rather than trust our self-sufficiency.

▶ **Watch Week 4 Video** (on DVD or at [pathwaychurch.com/messages/restore](http://pathwaychurch.com/messages/restore))

📄 **Read, Discuss, and Journal Answers**

## OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Inspirational posters are often hung at work or depicted as memes on social media. Can you identify any inspirational sayings or posters that are your favorites?

2. What tends to provoke a positive attitude at the beginning of your day and thus sets a good tone for your whole day?

3. As you think of the major victories in your life, do you consider them a result of your own doing? Or do you credit something else or someone else to those victories? Be as honest as you can about your struggles in this area.

## READ

### PHILIPPIANS 3:3-11 NIV

<sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by His Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup>But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like him in His death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

### PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20 NIV

<sup>10</sup>I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

<sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup>for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup>Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

<sup>18</sup>I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup>And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup>To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## IN THE WORD

1. Paul had an impressive resume, but no longer valued it as important. Is there anything that he mentioned in Philippians 3:4-6 that God would/could still use?
2. Take a few moments and quickly scan Philippians 3 and 4 for words that indicate attitude or state of mind—words like “attitude,” “consider,” or “think.” Does he tell us what impact these attitudes had on his life?
3. Paul was very successful, formidable, and probably self-sufficient before his encounter with Jesus. Do you think it was difficult to be stripped of pride and humbly accept financial support from others, or were there other considerations? Why or why not?

## MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. Attitude and mindset are often powerful components in decisions and outcomes. How has your life been affected by an attitude of self-sufficiency or an attitude of surrender?

2. Surrendering to God's priorities, contentment with what He provides, and trusting that He will provide true needs leads to the joy and peace that delights Paul. Has God ever challenged you with this? How did you react?

3. In what way has personal surrender to Christ affected the way you spend your money? Your time? Your relationships?

4. How often do you find that your attitude is probably more self-centered and self-sufficient than it should be? What would it take to be more surrendered to God's plans rather than being directed by your own?

## **PRAY**

*Pray for each person in your Home Team as they consider their next steps in Unfinished. During this mid-point of the Unfinished journey, we are praying that 100% of us at Pathway would take a step of faith in one of 3 ways:*

1. For those who have not yet joined the *Unfinished* journey, to be challenged to step out in faith and make a commitment to generosity for our final year of *Unfinished*. Trust God in this area of giving and take that step with us as a church as we declare we are an *unfinished* work in Him.

2. For those who are on the *Unfinished* journey and find yourself giving it everything you've got just to make it through, be encouraged. Commit to finish strong. There is a reason why you made your original *Unfinished* commitment, and we encourage you in that as you step out in faith in this final year of *Unfinished*.

3. For others on the *Unfinished* journey, you stepped out in faith last year and your journey has never been easy at all. However, one year later, you now find yourself back in a comfortable place. Maybe you've had an increase in faith, maybe an increase in finances, maybe God's provision has surprised you. Now you find yourself in a position where you don't feel you are living as much by faith as you are by plans. You are ready for yet another step of faith in this journey.

## **CONTINUED LEARNING**

*(self-study throughout the week)*

1. Paul was quite satisfied with hard work to support himself so that he would not be a burden to others while he shared the message of Christ at Thessalonica (see 1 Thessalonians 2:6b-9 and 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10). How does this compare with Philippians 4:14-19?

2. Complete the "Making Your *Unfinished* Commitment" exercise on the following page prior to the upcoming weekend services on Feb. 24 & 25.

# MAKING YOUR UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

**EXERCISE AND REFLECTION:** *Do at home prior to Commitment Weekend (February 24 & 25)*

1. List out the financial commitments that you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment but have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

2. Now, write out the commitment you are planning to make for *Unfinished*. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments?

- Do you need to adjust these commitments to make a first-time commitment to *Unfinished*?
- Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your *Unfinished* commitment?
- What if you wanted to raise your *Unfinished* commitment? What would that require?

Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment?

3. If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say that you value?

4. Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

5. If you keep this commitment over the next year, what type of spiritual transformation will that cause in you?

6. How will you leverage this change to influence others? How would it influence your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, or others?

**Pray over your commitment** as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on Commitment Weekend, February 24 & 25. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

**Let's do this!** Let's be people boldly surrendering ourselves to God in every area of our lives and declaring, "I am *unfinished!*"