Just for September Leader Guide
Philippians 3

Before You Read: As you read Chapter 3, consider the cost of following Jesus. Many have sacrificed so much for the sake of the gospel. Our sacrifice may look different from those around the world, but all Christians are called to take up their cross and follow Christ. It is important to remember that what is gained far outshines what is lost.

Read 3:1-11

1. Paul warns the Philippians to look out for those who are preaching a gospel that required circumcision (v. 2). That group was distorting the gospel by making a minor point into a major issue, and thus, forgetting that Jesus was supposed to be the priority. How have you discerned what is necessary for faith and what isn't? What sources of authority do you rely on to make your decision?
2. Can you think of an example where Christians over the years have misplaced their priorities? What can we learn from that experience?
3. Paul lists his credentials in verses 5-6. What value do titles give us? Are there titles you hold onto?
4. What do you think Paul "lost" when he came to believe in Jesus?
5. What have you lost by following Jesus? What have you gained?
    a. If you were to tell a young Christian about your faith journey, and give them advice about what is lost and gained in Christ, what would you say?

Read 3:12-21

6. What is the prize Paul is talking about? What is the goal of a life in Christ?
7. Paul encourages them to follow his example (v. 17). Who has been a Christian role model in your life? What did they teach you?
8. Verse 20 reminds us that we are citizens of God's kingdom. How does that shape our lives in this world?

Prayer: O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world. May our hope rest in the eternal promises you have made to us, knowing that you are the giver of all good things. May we decrease in order that you may increase in our lives, and our love for you abound more and more. We ask all of this in the name of the Risen Jesus. Amen. *(Based off Psalm 8)*