

Week Three: *We Keep Taking Steps*
Philippians 3:12-17

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. As we dig deeper into what it means to live a God-directed journey, let's read through Philippians 3:12-17. What is the goal for which we strive to remain focused?
2. When Paul urges us to, "press on toward the goal." What area in your life are you encountering resistance as you remain focused on Christ?
3. Provide an example in your life where you have found strength in being united with people of similar likes, beliefs, experiences.
4. Here at Pathfinder, we have established a simple saying that can help you remain focused on your goal. The saying is, ONE, ONE, FIFTEEN, SIX. Today, we will focus more on the first ONE. Giving one day a week to the worship of God and rest. According to Hebrews 10:23-25, what is the benefit of worshipping together?
5. God rested on the Sabbath. When He took a break from His creative process to enjoy what He had created. What way have you found this week to rest in God creation and just find enjoyment from what he has created?
6. Reflect on the statement and try to explain what it means to you, "God is happiest when He sees His children at play."
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN, pray for ways that you can draw encouragement from others. Also, do not forget to ask God to open your eyes to people whom you can encourage today.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Yesterday we closed with a prayer to God to open your eyes to see who you could encourage. In what way did God come to you in that prayer?
9. Yesterday we focused on ways that we could receive encouragement with the first ONE. The second ONE focuses on way that we could give encouragement by being some ONE to somebody. Read the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35 and his words in Matthew 5:13-16. What similarities do these two verses share?
10. Describe a time when someone was intentional in their encouragement towards you and how that made you feel.

11. For a mental exercise, take this space to write down as many ways that come to mind about how you could be intentional in your encouragement this week. (an un-asked for soft drink, a spontaneous prayer, be creative!)
12. Now take this space to identify at least 3 people which you plan to be intentional with this week.
13. Going back to our Bible verses for the day, what is the motive for our love, care, encouragement, etc.?
14. Now read 1 John 2:7-11. How does our light shine brightest?
15. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer, pray that God grants you a heart akin to His heart and eyes to see as He does. May He grant this to us all by the power of His Spirit.

Spend FIFTEEN: Day Three

16. Today we will focus on the benefit of the FIFTEEN. Spending at least fifteen minutes a day in a faith building exercise. Please read John 15:5-8. What is the benefit and goal to remaining closely tied to Jesus?
17. In your life, recall some things that have become habit forming, good or bad. Describe the process, (actions, feelings, thoughts) of when those things became habit forming.
18. Read Mark 1:35. Why did Jesus, the Son of God, consider this time a priority?
19. Why is solitude so important to forging a closeness with God?
20. Read Psalm 46:10. Describe stillness. Why is it crucial to knowing God?
21. One of the benefits of a God-directed journey is that it is very, very personal. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help forge regular time for solitude and stillness to hear what he has to say to you.

Spend FIFTEEN: Day Four

22. This week we have reviewed the ONE, ONE, FIFTEEN, goal for our journey with God. Today we will focus on the SIX or what it means to benefit others and yourself through acts of service. Let's go back to Matthew 5:13-16. What does it mean to be both salt and light?
23. What important step is needed from us for the world to experience salt and light?

24. Read Philippians 2:3-8. What key mind-set is Paul urging us to have in order to serve like Christ?
25. Describe a time in your life when it was to your benefit to be humble.
26. Do you think that Jesus was born with a servant's heart, or did he develop it?
27. Power, position, acclaim are not bad things in and of themselves. What does Jesus teach us to value over all these things?
28. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you see people who need Him. Ask Him to help you love the people dear to His heart and exploring ways to serve them. May God grant us the courage to act.

Spend FIFTEEN: Day Five

29. Describe a process that you have been part of over a long period of time where growth was incremental, however, the results were obvious when comparing the before and after.
30. Think about a time in your relationship with God where it has been strong. What was the mindset and action that accompanied that relationship?
31. We started our week with the reason for which we keep on pressing toward the goal. In Philippians 3:14, Paul calls it a "prize." What do you consider to be "the prize?"
32. Read Psalm 16:11.
33. Read this quote from an article in gotquestions.com. "...rewards in heaven glorify God and provide us with joy, peace, and wonder as we consider God's work in us and through us. The closer we were to God during this life, the more centered on Him and aware of Him, the more dependent on Him, the more desperate for His mercy, the more there will be to celebrate. We are like characters in a story who suffer doubt, loss, and fear, wondering if we will ever really have our heart's desire. When the happy ending comes and desire is fulfilled, there comes a completion. The story would not be satisfying without that completion. Rewards in heaven are the completion of our earthly story, and those rewards will be eternally satisfying."
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/rewards-in-heaven.html>)
34. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, consider all that it means to be on a God-directed journey. Remember that even when we are faithless, He remains faithful. In our journey we will have setbacks, struggles, and even occasional doubts. Continue to ask yourself to be mindful of the mission that God has called you to. Also, that God would always put before you His eternal purpose.