

## The One Thing | Philippians 3:12-16 Sermon Discussion Leader Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To reflect on our life priorities.

**Icebreaker:** Think about the past. What's something that felt like it was yesterday but was *actually* happened years ago?

**Discussion:**

**Read:**

[James 4:14](#)

You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

1. If you live to 80, you will live almost 4,000 weeks. If you're 30, you have 2,700 weeks left. If you're 40, 1,900 weeks. If you're 50, 1,400 weeks. If you're 60, 800 weeks. How does numbering your days change how you think about the future?

**Read:**

“People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.” - Thomas Merton

2. What are the ladders you've climbed in the past that you wish you wouldn't have climbed? What are ladders in the present that you need to climb down from?

3. What are the ladders you regret ignoring? What are the ladders you *fear* ignoring in your few weeks left?

**Read:**

[Philippians 3:8](#)

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.

[Psalm 84:10](#)

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

## Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

4. What do these verses share in common? How do they convict you and make you want to change?
5. The previous verses expressed a profound desire for God. How do desire and longing relate to ladder climbing?
6. Take one minute in silence and think back to the ladders you regret climbing, and the ladders you want to climb down from. What were you seeking at the top of those ladders? What do you currently desire that leads you to climb wrong ladders currently?
7. As a group, create a list of reasons why we should desire Jesus above everything else. Share what Jesus has done for you, how he's loved you, and what he's promised you.

## Read

### Philippians 3:13-14

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

8. Why do you think it's important to forget our spiritual failures if we want to press on toward Christ? Why do you think it's important to forget our spiritual successes?

## Sharing and Prayer:

*Jesus not only forgives us, but also strengthens us by grace so we can climb the ladder toward him. What is one way God is calling you to pursue your desire for him and climb the ladder? What is a promise of God or an aspect of his character that makes you desire to take that step?*

Break up into smaller groups (men and women, groups of two or three) and have them share their answer and pray for one another.