



## PHILIPPIANS 3

### NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:1-14

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Balloons, Sharpie, garbage bin and bag, ribbons for medals, medal print outs.

#### Ask:

What do you know about the author of Philippians? (Allow for answers about Paul and maybe his starting of the church)

What do you remember about this letter so far? (Allow for answers)

Did anyone try not to complain? How did it go?

Today, we'll learn more about Paul and his resume. Does anyone know what a resume is? (Allow for answers)

#### Ask:

Let's pretend I have a pet giraffe and I'm going out of town. I need someone to watch my giraffe and you want the job. The problem is, so does everyone else. So, I need you to come up with a reason why I should allow you to babysit my pet giraffe. Here is your chance: why should I hire you?

#### Explain

In our story in Philippians, Paul is going to take some time to explain that he has a right to teach these people. See, others had been going around to the churches he planted and challenging his teachings. They wanted the people to have to follow the Jewish laws for salvation. Paul, though, says that the old traditions are not what save people. It is the work of Jesus on the cross and the renewing mark of the Spirit in our lives that shows us to be saved. (Note to teacher: maybe before it comes up, explain to the children that circumcision was a special mark meant to set apart God's people. If they have more questions, point them to their parents, but that usually suffices.) Now, the mark of the believer isn't the sign, but the fruit of the Spirit evident in their lives. Not that we'll ever be perfect, but we can trust that God is shaping us to be more like him each day if we allow it.

Because these people were going around talking about the importance of Jewish customs, Paul tells everyone his own "Jewish" resume. Let's learn about it.

**Read** Philippians 3:1-6

**Explain:**

If any of these phrases are confusing to the kids, here are simple explanations:

Circumcised on the eighth day: According to the law of Moses, the mark was to be given on the eighth day after a baby was born.

Of the tribe of Benjamin: Many Hebrews were proud of their lineage. The first King of Israel came from this tribe.

Pharisee: These were educated teachers of the law that followed rules very strictly.

Zeal in persecuting the church: Paul was there when the first martyr was killed for following Jesus. He led many Christians to prison before Jesus spoke to him and he became a follower.

Righteousness based on the law, faultless: This doesn't mean Paul didn't sin, but that he went through the proper Jewish customs to forgiveness when he did.

**Activity:**

These might not be things we boast about, but can you think of some things that you or others you know boast about? (To boast is to brag or think highly of yourself for some reason.

As the kids mention them, write them on balloons. There will be balloons blown up beforehand, and some will have Paul's boasts written on them.

If the kids need to get up and move around, have them write the boasts on the balloons.

**Read** Philippians 3:7-14

**Explain:**

All those great things about Paul, he considers garbage compared to knowing Christ. And guess what? Anything we could boast about- any gift or skill or talent- is nothing compared to knowing Christ. So let's throw them away like Paul does!

**Activity:**

Fill a trash can with an empty garbage bag and have the kids gather the balloons and shoot them into the bin.

**Craft:**

If time, have the kids create a craft of medals. They can get creative and draw out the prize of knowing Christ. You can present them with their medals and explain that our true prize is found in heaven with Jesus. Nothing on this earth compares to it. Because of the greatness of this prize, we can live like Paul: straining toward it. Forgetting everything else. Looking forward to that prize. This is our purpose: to know Christ!

**Memorize:** Philippians 3:14

**Close in Prayer**

