

HEAVEN'S CITIZENS HOLDING EARTHLY VISAS

Philippians 3:17-4:1

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, talk about some of your favorite travel memories.
- What do you think it feels like to be a citizen of one country, but living in a different country?
- Explain Pastor Pat's statement: Christians are heavenly citizens holding earthly visas.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Philippians 3:17-4:1. In his message, Pastor Pat challenged us with **three discerning looks toward Christlikeness**.

1. Look Around for Godly Examples (Philippians 3:17)

- a. Based on what you know about the Apostle Paul, what are some of his characteristics that you would like to imitate?
- b. Who are some other men and women in the Bible that you follow in one way or another?
- c. Are you someone worth following? Are there areas of your life you wouldn't want someone to imitate? Share some of those with your group.
- d. You become like the people you follow. Fill in the blanks in this statement: I want to be more _____ (loving, honest, humble, kind, etc.), so I will intentionally spend more time with _____ (someone who helps you be more like Jesus).

2. Look Out for Godless Enemies (Philippians 3:18-19)

- a. According to Paul, "enemies of the cross of Christ" have their minds set on earthly things. How can you tell if someone's mind is focused on things of this earth?
- b. Contrast this passage with Colossians 3:1-4. How can you tell if someone's mind is focused on things above? Where is your mind most of the time?

3. Look Up for Your Great Expectation (Philippians 3:20)

- a. Sometimes we hear incredible stories of how God completely changed someone's life trajectory at salvation. Maybe you feel like your story is a little more "boring." Why is every salvation story actually incredible?
- b. If you're a Christ-follower, your home is in heaven. What are you looking forward to most about going home one day?
- c. How does the promise of heaven change your perspective today?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will live as foreigners and strangers on earth, since our real home is in heaven.

MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Philippians 3:20-21 - "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."*

