

## 4. Reaching for the Prize

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Philippians 3.7-21

**13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, **14** I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

- As a church in general, do you think we talk about the life to come enough? How much do you personally think about the hope of eternity? What difference would it make if we talked and thought about this more?
- v10. 'I want to know Christ'. What do you think it means to 'know the power of the resurrection' in this life? And what does it mean to participate 'in his sufferings'?
- v13. 'But one thing'. Paul was very much single minded in his pursuit of God. Is this something that you can identify with, or does it seem a bit extreme? Do you see your faith as the one main thing, or just a part of your life?
- v25. 'forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead'. How do we make sure that the church isn't an institution looking backwards towards the past, but passionately pressing on towards the future?
- v14. 'to win the prize'. How much do you think of this future prize? What do you think it might look like?

Big Idea: 'Live your life like a race, not looking back, but straining towards your eternal prize. What we do in this life matters in the next.'

Pray together for a renewed vision of our eternal destiny. Pray for revelation and inspiration for what we have to come. Pray for a fresh sense of passion to know Jesus and to 'lay hold of' him.

Pray also for two or three friends that you have who don't know Jesus. Pray for them to be open to the invitation. Pray for a revelation of who Jesus is. Pray for boldness to share the good news for them, particularly at this Easter time, and to invite them to find out more.