

Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 1–10–21

Why Do I Want? — Interview with Tim Hart

1/3 — Looking Back

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video [here](#)), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out — How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: *God*. In: *fellow believers and family*. Out: *unbelievers*)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

2/3 — Looking to Jesus in the Present

Explore this Scripture passage together: Philippians 3:7-14 (to read Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of this passage in *The Message*, click [here](#))

- As the facilitator, first read the passage aloud and invite the other members of the group to just listen and take note of what stands out to them. You may want to read this more than once.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative question: “*what do we learn from this passage about the nature of rightly ordered desires?*”

3/3 — Looking Forward

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “*How do my current desires compare with Paul’s desires (as described in Phil. 3:7-14)?*” Pay special attention to whatever thoughts or feelings surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to however the Spirit may want to speak to you through them. When you are ready, ask Jesus what kind of re-ordering He wants to do in this area of your heart. After some time of personal reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, asking Jesus to continue bringing your desires into alignment with His!