

Gathering

FOCUS

How often do you spend thinking back on past mistakes or intentional bad choices? I spend more time than I care to admit on events, choices or toxic relationships that can't be changed. We can often get caught up in the "what ifs" in our life. If we follow, these "what ifs" can cause us to lose sight of what we most value. Similarly, as mothers, we can get caught up on the mistakes we've made with our children. Was I too strict? Was I too lenient? Should I have done more to shield them from that friend? Was moving them during the school year the best for their well-being?

These negative thoughts can turn us away from the goal. They can cause us to lose focus. They can keep us from realizing the prize God has for each of us. Even the Apostle Paul didn't consider himself to yet have taken hold of it but he made the conscious choice to forget all the pains and mistakes of the past so he could focus on what was ahead. We can learn from his example. We can put everything on the line for Jesus. Will you?

Philippians 3:13, 14 (NIV) *"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 toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions below with your group:

- Do you find yourself struggling to focus?
- When do you feel closest to God? Furthest?
- How often do you find yourself in the "what if" state of mind?
- When you are focused on the prize, how is your life different?

After the sharing, you may wish to take time to discuss how, as a group, accountability can be held to encourage a deeper exploration of scripture or even offer a fun challenge of memorizing a new verse per week.

Be sure to hand out the Monthly Scripture Card and Take Home Sheet.

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

Philippians 3:13, 14



Gathering

FOCUS

Do you find yourself
struggling to **focus**?



Gathering

FOCUS

When do you feel
closest to **God**? Furthest?



Gathering

FOCUS

How often do you find
yourself in the “**what if**”
state of mind?



Gathering

FOCUS

When you are **focused** on
the prize, how is
your **life** different?

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
TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD.



I PRESS ON TOWARD THE
GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR
WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME
HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13, 14 (NIV)

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
TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD.



I PRESS ON TOWARD THE
GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR
WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME
HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13, 14 (NIV)

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
TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD.



I PRESS ON TOWARD THE
GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR
WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME
HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13, 14 (NIV)

What is in focus in the lens of your life?



What is in focus in the lens of your life?

