

The Art of Losing

Small Group Discussion Guide—9/30/2018

In this week's passage, Paul describes a whole list of things that boost his resume, that should give him confidence. If you were to make a similar list for yourself, what sorts of things would be on your list?

Let's read Paul's exact words about his resume, and his response to his qualifications. As you read, imagine you live in Paul's day, that Paul is someone you know. Everything you know tells you that a major goal in life is to get ahead. Read Philippians 3:1-10

- What are your reactions to hearing about Paul's "qualifications"?
- What about when he then says this list is meaningless, it is garbage – what do you think of that?
- Was it easy or hard for Paul to say these things? Why?

What are the hardest things on your resume for you to "consider rubbish"? Why?

Can you think of any modern examples of people who have embraced what Paul is saying here – people who have every qualification, yet live as though those qualifications mean nothing in comparison to their love of Christ?

Paul's message is easy to embrace when we see Jesus as valuable, not just important.

- What are some examples of things that are important versus things that are valuable?
- Is there any trend you see on the things deemed "important" versus the things deemed "valuable"?
- What are the attitudes, habits, etc we exemplify when we see Jesus as important?
- How do these change when we see Him as valuable?

Paul would say that if we are not in awe of Jesus, there is probably an aspect of Jesus that we don't understand.

- Do you agree with this statement?
- What are the aspects of Jesus that you have experienced that increase your love for him?

How do we apply this message to our daily lives?

Pray together as a group, that we would all find our identities in Christ alone, and that we would find Him to be the most valuable thing in our lives.

