

# PHILIPPIANS

Finding Joy in Every Season



## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you like to race? What do you enjoy about it? What if the race were *really* long? How would you get through it?
2. A citizen is a person who lives in and belongs to a particular city or country with special privileges. What do you think a good citizen looks like?

## DIG DEEPER

Last week we learned that Paul's greatest boast was to know Christ. Through faith in Christ, he was declared righteous! Paul went on to say that He wanted to know Christ even more, he wanted greater fellowship with Jesus (even if it meant suffering!) and His hope was in the day when His body would be resurrected just like Christ Jesus' was. This week, Paul wants to make sure everyone knows that he isn't already perfect in Christ...though He has been declared righteous *positionally*, he still needs to grow in righteousness *practically*. This means he has been forgiven and cleansed from His sin and can now be in God's presence, but he still needs to grow to be more like Christ. We can be declared righteous and yet still need to grow in righteousness! Let's hear what Paul has to say about this in the last half of Philippians 3.

### Read Philippians 3:12-16

*<sup>12</sup> I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal. But I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that. That is the reason Christ made me his. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I know that I have not yet reached that goal. But there is one thing I always do: I forget the things that are past. I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me. <sup>14</sup> I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize. That prize is mine because God called me through Christ to the life above. <sup>15</sup> All of us who have grown spiritually to be mature should think this way, too. And if there are things you do not agree with, God will make them clear to you. <sup>16</sup> But we should continue following the truth we already have.*

1. What is the goal Paul is running after? *\*Knowing Christ more and becoming like Him.*
2. Are you already perfect? How do you want to grow to be more like Christ?

3. What are some things you can do to grow in your relationship with the Lord? Would you want to consider setting aside time during the day to read a book of the Bible? Pray? Journal? Perhaps there is a Christian book you want to read through and discuss with your parents or a friend? Brainstorm some ideas of how you can grow closer to the Lord.
4. Isn't it cool to think that Christ made us His own? He pursued our hearts and saved us! He gave us a desire to know Him! God delivers us from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light to know, love & serve Christ. How can you thank God for this amazing gift? How might you want to live differently in light of all that God has done for you?

**Read & Reflect on Philippians 3:17-21**

*<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is **destruction**, their god is **their belly**, and they glory in **their shame**, with minds set **on earthly things**. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> 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.*

5. Compare and contrast a believer and an enemy of the cross.

<b>Believer</b>	<b>Enemy of the Cross</b>
Their end is eternal life	Their end is _____
Their God is the triune God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Their god is _____
They glory in the cross.	They glory in _____
Their mind is on things above.	Their mind is _____

6. What country are you a citizen of? What does it mean to have a citizenship in heaven?
7. What is the great day that we are awaiting? What is the bright future we are looking forward to (v. 20-21)?

**PRAYER POINT**

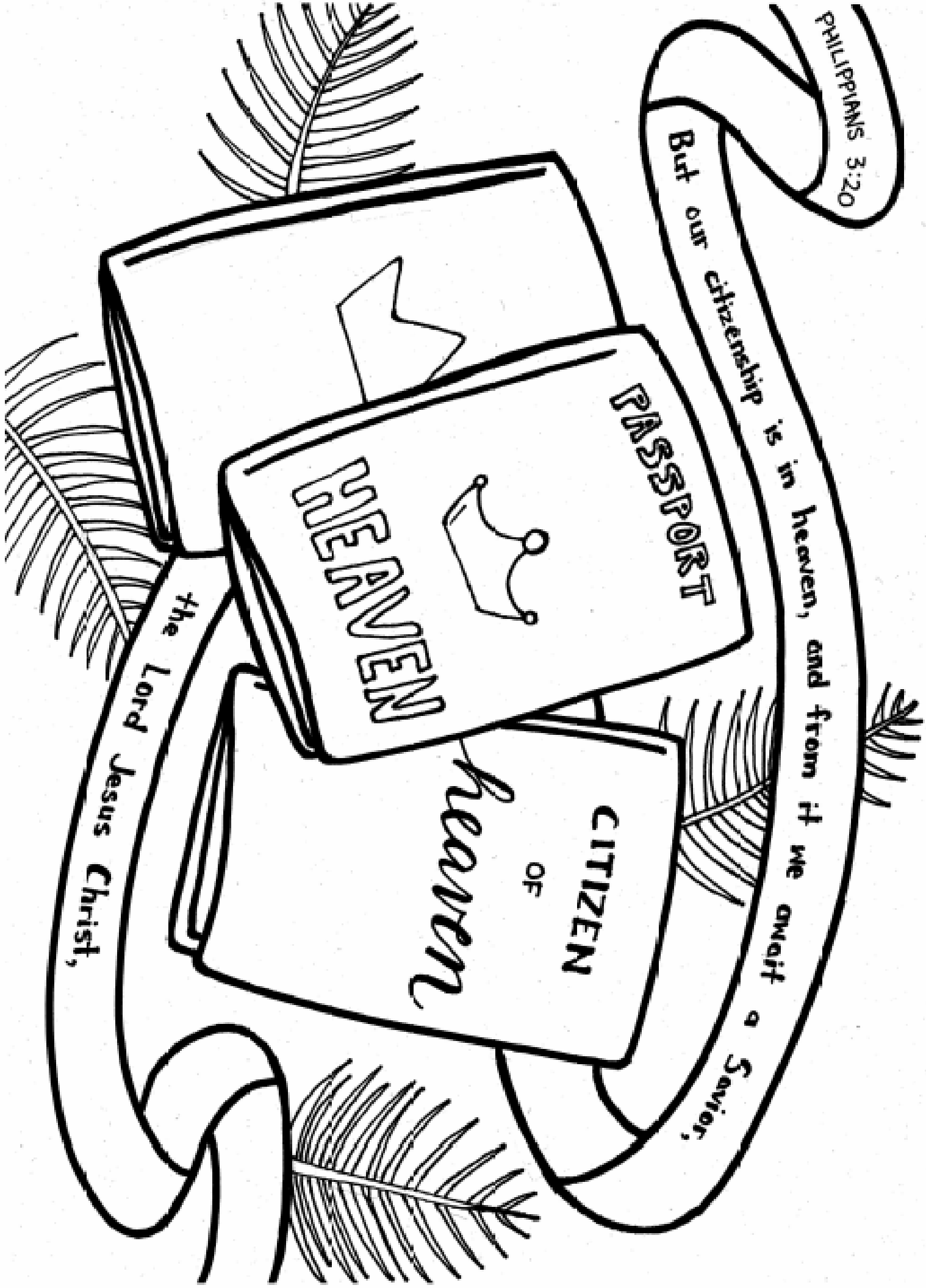
- Pray that we would run the Christian race pursuing the goal of knowing Christ and becoming like Him.
- Praise the Lord that God pursues us and saves us not because of anything good we have done, but because He loves us!
- Pray that we would live as citizens of heaven with our hope in the return of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior,



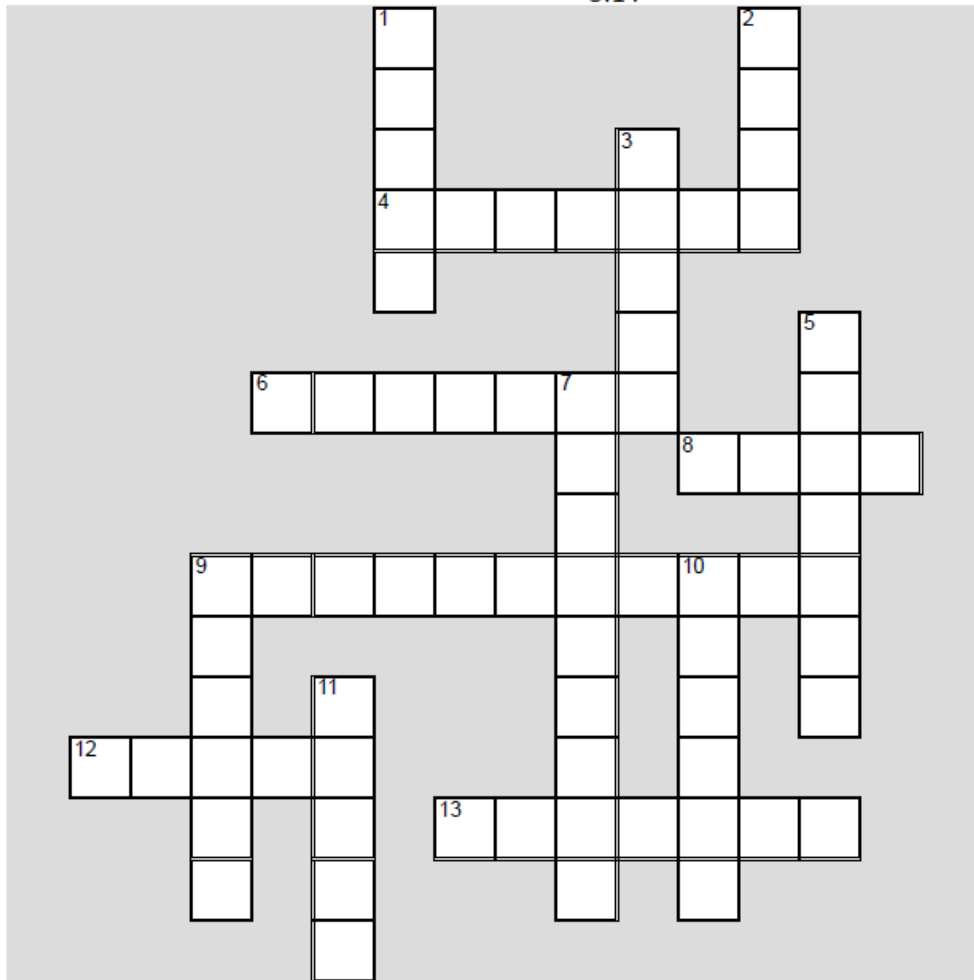
the Lord Jesus Christ,





# Philippians 3

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14



## Across

- 4 Feel or show great joy or delight
- 6 Copy or follow as a model
- 8 The object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result
- 9 The position or status of being a citizen of a particular country
- 12 A reward
- 13 Absolute; complete; without fault

## Down

- 1 high renown or honor won; magnificence or great beauty
- 2 A competition to see who is the fastest
- 3 The word of God
- 5 A person to be modeled, imitated or exemplified
- 7 Make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, or character of
- 9 Anointed; Messiah
- 10 God's dwelling place
- 11 The son of God; God the Son