

Small Group Study Guide
Week #9 – “Play to win”

MAIN POINT: Jesus deserves 100% effort

Gathering Questions:

1. When have you ever given 100% effort toward some goal or project? Did you reach the goal? How did it feel?

2. Read Philippians 3:1-6. One of the things it talks about is all of the earthly credentials and pursuits of Paul. How would you describe the pursuits and earthly credentials of Paul? How do we sometimes put a lot of effort into earthly pursuits? (not that all of those pursuits are bad)

3. Paul talks about how he views his former pursuits and how he has reoriented his life around Christ in Philippians 3:7-16. How would you describe Paul's new outlook on life and what is important to him?

4. Read Jesus' description of discipleship in Matthew 16:24-26. How does Jesus describe the commitment that is involved in becoming a disciple? What would this look like practically for us to have this kind of discipleship?

5. What does Jesus mean in Matthew 16:25-26 when he talks about finding life when we lose our lives? How can we practically find “life” when we deny our lives?

6. We have talked about “playing to win” and “taking our game to the next level”; what commitments do you want to make in the following areas:
 - a. To grow closer to God in your knowledge of Him and relationship to Him

 - b. To give more of yourself to be used for His purposes

 - c. To have a closer relationship with other believers with whom you can grow together, encourage each other, support each other and be used for His purposes