



HARRIS CREEK

December 27 Family Guide

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the elders and staff at Harris Creek. While Christmas 2020 probably looked different from Christmas of years past, we hope you, your friends, and your family had a great Christmas making memories and worshipping the Lord.

While nothing magical happens in the transition from December 31, 2020 to January 1, 2021, the end of one year and the beginning of the next provide us with a unique opportunity to look back and look ahead. This year certainly turned out different than any of us expected. But God is still on His throne and as only He can do, turned what the enemy intended for evil into good as He accomplished much (Genesis 50:20).

As you know, there is no formal in-person gathering at Harris Creek this December 27. We've put together this resource to help your family grow and to use your time together intentionally. Very simply, this resource will help guide your family in a brief discussion intended to help you finish well and start well. Our prayer is that in spite of this incredibly unique year that you would be able to look back with gratitude and look forward with hope.

Take a few moments to reflect back on this current year. Discuss the following as a family.

- What was your favorite moment or memory of 2020? For instance, this could be a vacation or a visit with a friend or family member. Help your younger kids remember some highlights of the year.
- What's something new we started in 2020? What's a new favorite tradition? For example, this could be walks around the neighborhood, making meals together, or a new game you played as a family.
- 2020 has been filled with many disappointments. What's a hard situation that God used for good?

Last Sunday we finished studying the book of Philippians. A few weeks ago, we studied Philippians 3:12-14. In this passage, Paul captures the tension between looking back and looking ahead.

Read this passage out loud.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

We want you to take a few minutes to discuss this passage. Younger kids can color a picture that is designed around Philippians 3:14. The picture is included in this download.

Paul shares how even though he has planted churches, studied the Word, shared the Gospel, and poured into others, he has not yet arrived. We can find great comfort in the fact that the greatest missionary to walk the planet outside of Jesus continues to press on forward because he hasn't arrived at the goal. Paul is a work in progress and you and I are as well.

Pause for a few moments and reflect as a family some ways how you, like Paul, have not yet arrived at the goal.

- As you think back on 2020, what's a part of your life you wish was different?
- What's a struggle you have that you wished you could leave behind? Parents — don't be afraid to be vulnerable and honest with your children. Share in ways that are age-appropriate, but lead out in authenticity.

In verse 14, Paul says he will “press on toward the goal to win the prize.”

- What are you most excited about in 2021?
- What are your prayers for 2021 for your own life? Your family? Friends? Harris Creek?

To help you and your family put into practice some of what you discussed, here are a few potential applications for your family today or in the week ahead.

- As a family, choose to go tech-free for four hours. Put phones away, turn off the TV, don't check email, and instead take a nap, play some games, visit some friends, or go for a walk.
- What would help you love God more today? Whatever it is, do it! Discuss with your spouse and kids and give every family member an opportunity to grow in their affection for Jesus.
- We'd like to know how to pray for you in 2021. Take a few moments and send any prayer requests to us at Harris Creek. Email your prayer requests for 2021 to hello@harriscreek.org and we'd like to specifically pray for your family this year.

We can't wait to see you back at Harris Creek on Sunday, January 3!

PRESS on TOWARD the GOAL

WIN the PRIZES



FOR WHICH

GOD

HAS

CALLED

me

HEAVENWARD IN THE RACE

PHILIPPIANS 3:14 (niv)