

# Forward Looking 12 -28 -2025: Group Leader Guide

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## Sermon Recap 🎬

The sermon emphasizes the importance of intentionally hitting the "reset button" in our lives by focusing on Christ and not dwelling on the past. It encourages us to be forward-looking, embracing renewal and understanding that any challenging situation we face will eventually pass. The message highlights that our thoughts magnify whatever we focus on, so it's crucial to dwell on positive and godly things. By seeking God's kingdom first and living righteously, everything we need will be provided. The sermon reminds us that each moment is an opportunity to live for Christ, leaving past worries behind and trusting in God for the future. Emphasis is placed on guarding our hearts and focusing on growth in faith, recognizing that our confidence and purpose lie in Christ alone.

"Whatever you are going through, it will pass."

## Discussion Questions

How does the idea of "hitting the reset button" change when you think of it as an intentional decision to center your life on Christ rather than trying to rewrite the past?

A reset in this sermon isn't denial or pretending nothing happened; it's choosing a new focus and direction. Discuss what practices help you intentionally re-center on Christ when regrets or disappointments keep pulling your attention backward.

What past situation are you still magnifying in your mind, and how is that focus shaping your emotions, decisions, and faith right now?

The sermon describes the mind as a magnifying glass—what you stare at grows in size and influence. Talk about what happens in you when you replay a mistake or loss, and what it might look like to "think on these things" by replacing that loop with what is true, good, and Christ-centered.

How can your group help one another be forward-looking without minimizing real pain or lessons from the past?

Being forward-looking doesn't mean the past didn't matter; it means you refuse to live there. Explore what supportive accountability looks like—naming the lesson, owning what you can change, and then taking a next faithful step together.

What does "for me, living is Christ" (Philippians 1:20–26) challenge about the way you currently define success, security, or identity?

Paul's mission is simple and all-encompassing: Christ, even above career, money, and approval. Discuss what competes with Christ for first place in your daily choices, and what one concrete reordering would look like this week.

What is one area where you need to "guard your heart" so that what goes in doesn't control what you focus on, and how could you set a practical boundary or habit to protect that focus?

The sermon connects inputs to focus—what you consume shapes what you magnify. Share specific influences (media, conversations, comparisons, fears) that hijack your attention, and identify one intentional change that keeps your mind aimed at faith, hope, and the mission.

## Prayer

- May we intentionally press the reset button by releasing what is done and choosing to face forward with renewed purpose in Christ.

- May we guard our hearts and direct our thoughts toward what is true, good, and praiseworthy, so our focus magnifies faith instead of past mistakes.
- May we accept that every season—hard or hopeful—will pass, and use today’s moment to respond with courage, gratitude, and steady obedience.
- May we seek the kingdom first in practical choices this week, trusting that what we truly need is found in Christ rather than in approval, fear, or regret.
- May we treat setbacks as opportunities to serve and share hope, living so our lives visibly reflect that “to live is Christ” in our relationships and routines.

## Rewatch the Sermon

