

Discussion Guide

November 23, 2025

For Such A Time As This: Week 4 I'm Not There Yet, But I'm On My Way

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Main Idea

This week's message reminds us that spiritual growth is a journey, not a moment. Philippians 3:12-14 shows Paul admitting he hasn't arrived yet—but he refuses to stay where he is. Instead, he presses forward with focus, intentionality, and grit. Proverbs 4 teaches us that the heart determines the course of our lives, and we are called to guard it, fix our eyes ahead, and walk the path God has marked out for us. Today, we lean into the truth that we may not be there yet, but if we stay focused, stay faithful, and stay devoted, God will take us further than we imagined.

Anchor Passage

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on..."
(Philippians 3:12–14, NIV)

Read: Proverbs 4:23; 25–27; Romans 12:1–2; Isaiah 43:18–19; Proverbs 3:5–6

1. FIX YOUR FOCUS ON WHERE GOD IS TAKING YOU

We can't move forward while looking backward. Scripture tells us to "look straight ahead" because what we consistently fix our attention on eventually becomes the direction of our lives. When our focus drifts to our past, our problems, or our preferences, we lose spiritual traction. But when we fix our attention on God, He transforms us from the inside out and gives clarity for what's ahead.

Read: Proverbs 4:25; Romans 12:1–2; Isaiah 43:18–19

Discussion: When you look at your current season, what tends to capture your focus most—your past, your circumstances, or God’s direction for your future? How does your focus impact your ability to move forward with confidence and spiritual momentum?

2. PLAN YOUR PATH AND WALK FULL OF FAITH

Scripture doesn’t just call us to move—it calls us to be intentional about how we move. Proverbs 4:26 says to “mark out a straight path” and stay on it. Planning isn’t a lack of faith; it’s the expression of faith. God directs the paths of those who trust Him with all their ways. When we plan with Him instead of ahead of Him, He straightens out what we could never straighten on our own.

Read: Proverbs 4:26; Proverbs 3:5–6

Discussion: What part of your spiritual path feels clearly marked right now, and what part feels unplanned or unclear? What step of obedience or intentionality could help you better align your path with what God is trying to do in you and through you?

3. DISTRACTIONS ARE COMING, BUT I’M NOT STOPPING

Distractions rarely look dangerous—they look subtle, convenient, or comfortable. But Proverbs warns us not to get sidetracked because even small distractions can pull us off course. The enemy loves to use cravings, comparison, busyness, and emotional reactions to derail spiritual progress. Devotion, not emotion, keeps us anchored. When we remain watchful and prayerful, we stay strengthened, focused, and moving forward.

Read: Proverbs 4:26–27; Colossians 4:2

Discussion: What distraction tends to pull you off course most easily? How would your week look different if devotion—not emotion—shaped your decisions and your direction?

SUMMARY

We’re all going somewhere spiritually—either toward God’s best or away from it. Progress, not perfection, is the mark of a disciple. When we guard our hearts, fix our focus ahead, plan our path with God, and resist distractions, we keep moving forward into everything He has prepared for us. You may not be where you want to be yet, but if you’re still pressing, you’re still growing—and God is still leading.

CALL TO ACTION

Identify one area where you've been stuck or stagnant.

Bring it to God, shift your focus forward, and take one intentional step this week that reflects where He's leading—not where you've been.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

"Pressing Forward" Reflection Activity

Instructions: Give each person two small cards. On the first card, have them write something they need to "forget" or leave behind an old mindset, habit, distraction, or place where they've settled. On the second card, have them write one thing they're pressing toward in faith.

Invite participants to share if they feel comfortable, then close with a prayer thanking God for what He is releasing them from and asking Him for renewed strength to press toward what lies ahead.