

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 13-19, 2020

“JOY MADE FULL”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What would be something that you would look forward to after the quarantine/pandemic? How about for the coming week, what is something you are looking forward to?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 John 1:1-4.

1. Are you a first generation Christian (your parents were not Christ-followers), a second generation Christian (your parents were committed believers), or a third generation believer (both your parents and grandparents were Christ-followers)? Share something about how you came to know the Lord in light of which generation you belong to.
2. *Discuss.* What do you think are the advantages of being a first, second or third generation believer? In your view, what are some areas that a first, second or third generation Christian would miss out on when it comes to passing on the faith to the next generation?
3. John wrote so that his readers would “have fellowship” with him, with other Christians and with God. How is Christian fellowship different from merely spending time with people? (NB: fellowship, *koinonia* in the Greek, means “to share, or to have something in common.”)
4. 1 John 1:4 is an interesting statement. Instead of saying “your joy,” John says, “our joy.” The apostle is telling his readers that Christian joy is incomplete until it is shared with others. In what way have you experienced that? What are some of the obstacles (in your life) to experiencing this joy that John is talking about?
5. Have you ever had the privilege of leading someone to Christ or mentoring them? Or the other way around, of being mentored or discipled by someone? Share how the experience had helped you in your faith.

6. Read Psalms 32:11; 118:24; Philippians 4:4. Pastor Nic said that “Joy doesn’t just happen, it is also a choice.” What does this pursuit of joy entail? How can this be misunderstood or misinterpreted?
7. As you think about the two fruit of the Spirit that has been tackled (i.e. love, joy), how do you think they are connected?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

True joy is rooted in revelation of Christ and realized in relationship with him and other believers.

- ☐ I will share with others the joy of having Jesus in my life.
- ☐ I will make my relationship with Jesus my priority.
- ☐ I will make time for small group.
- ☐ I will seek to build genuine relationships with other believers.

Don’t forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow in joy that is based on your relationship with Jesus and with other believers.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.