

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The following is designed to help your group enter into meaningful discussion and application as you become a more fully-devoted follower of Jesus. These questions are a guide and you may not address all of them in group. Look through them ahead of time and identify questions you would like to discuss more thoroughly together. Any questions not addressed during group may be useful for personal study. Remember, our goal is to not just listen to the Word but obey it (James 1:22).

1. What are some of the world's lies concerning what is supposed to be fulfilling and satisfying but is not? Which have entangled you personally?

2. Discuss: "God commands us to be joyful always, so that must be a choice I can make rather than a feeling." How do you put that choice into practice?

3. What are some things God has done for you, promised you, or revealed about Himself that help you rejoice in Him?

4. What are some of the enemies of joy? (Can you list some that weren't given in the sermon?)

5. Have you ever been in a place where your heart is too hard to be joyful (with bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.)? If so, can you share about it?

WHOA TO WOE

Pastor Dave Bechtel | I Thessalonians 5:16

I. Joy's foundation is "in the Lord"

Rom 12:2;
Rev 18:10, 16, 19, 20;
John 11:35; Phil 4:4;
Acts 14:17; Gal 5:22-23

A. What He's done for me

I Thess 1:4-6; Acts 16:34;
Luke 10:17-20; Phil 4:3;
Heb 12:23; Rev 13:8;
II Cor 4:16-17

B. What He's promised

Rom 5:1-5; Col 1:27;
Rom 8:17; II Cor 4:17;
James 1:2-4; Matt 5:11-12

C. Who He is

I Pet 1:8; Ps 16:11; 28:7;
Ps 119:32; Luke 2:8-12;
Luke 10:17-21

II. Spiritual maturity brings another level of joy

A. The foundation remains;
(we build on that)

I Cor 14:20

B. Spiritual parents
rejoice in their
children's growth

I John 1:4; III John 4;
I Thess 2:19; Phil 2:2;
I Chron 29:17; Prov 23:15-16;
Prov 23:24-25; 10:1; 15:20;
Prov 17:21; 27:11; 29:3

III. Joy has some enemies

Gal 4:15a

A. Distrust

Rom 15:13

B. Disobedience

Eph 4:30; Lam 5:15-17;
I John 1:9

C. Distance

Ps 32:3-5; 51:10-12;
Ps 118:24