

5. As we consider and count the cost of following Jesus, it is also great to know we can pursue happiness and joy. In Scripture, sometimes they are used as synonyms and other times there are distinctives .

Joy is to be found in the _____ (Philippians 4:4) and is a fruit of the _____. (Galatians 5:22). Happiness is found in our _____ and lifestyle. (Matthew 5:1-12)

6. What do these verses teach us about being happy when we make certain choices or sacrifices?

John 13:12,17

Acts 20:35

Proverbs 8:32

Proverbs 13:19

Proverbs 15:30

Proverbs 16:20

Proverbs 20:7

Proverbs 22:9

Proverbs 28:14

Which of these verses are most meaningful to you and why?

Taking it Home– Honoring Christ

Pray for each other that we would all remember Who is calling us to make happy sacrifices and that we would resist making excuses. You could also pray Paul’s prayer (or parts of it) from Colossians 1:9-14 for each other.

“The Truth About Happy Sacrifice!”

Luke 9:57-62

Jesus said:

Matthew 11:28-”Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

John 14:27- “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

John 15:11- “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

It will be awesome but it will not be _____

1. You must accept _____ *Luke 9:57-58*

II Corinthians 4:8-10- “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

2. You must determine _____ - Luke 9:59-60

Luke 9:24,25- "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

3. You must have _____ - Luke 9:61-62

Philippians 3:13-14- "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

So what...

Are you ready to make a _____ sacrifice?

What was your take-away from Sunday?

(A particular point, challenge, encouragement, or question)

Getting Connected– Loving Christ

A possible interesting question to start your group-
What is your favorite excuse for not doing something?

Going Further– Growing in Christ

1. Begin working on this new memory verse.

Luke 9:24- "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

This week pray for Rainbow acres as they care for and equip for ministry physically and mentally challenged adults.

2. How does Jesus respond to the excuses offered by these prospective followers?

In your own words, describe what He was saying to them.

3. From the message, which of the three "musts" trip you up as you "happily" or "joyfully" follow Jesus and why?

4. When we think of the "hard" or "challenging" sayings of Jesus, why is it so important to remember Who Jesus is? His favorite "label" for Himself (used 83 times in the gospels) is He is the Son of Man.

What does this mean from the following passages?

Daniel 7:13,14

Matthew 16:27

Matthew 19:27-30