

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joy in Jesus (Genuine Joy #1)

Week of April 28, 2019

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just "get through the questions" (there's no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

ICEBREAKER (Optional)

Share a quirky, unique, little-known fact about yourself that other group members might not be aware of.

DISCUSSION

Read Acts 16:11-15

1. In this passage, we hear about Paul and his companions meeting a woman named Lydia. What can we infer about her from the text?
2. Verse 14 says, "The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul" (ESV). What does this verse teach us about God's work in Lydia's life? What does this imply about His work in our own lives?

Read Acts 16:16-24

3. Paul and his companions also encounter a slave girl "who had a spirit of divination" (v. 16). How did the girl find freedom from her owners and this "spirit"? What does this teach us about the nature of salvation?



Read Acts 16:25-40

4. What do we learn about the jailer from these verses?
5. a. What enabled Paul and Silas to sing and pray while imprisoned?

b. How might their actions have helped the distraught jailer find joy in Jesus?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

6. In the city of Philippi, Paul saw God bring spiritual salvation to a wide variety of people: an affluent religious woman, a demon-possessed slave girl, and a duty-bound jailer. Their spiritual rescue wasn't based on who they were or where they had come from, rather from God's love for them. As you reflect on your own spiritual journey, with which of these three individuals do you most identify? How has God used (and how is He currently using) your circumstances, whether good or bad, to help you find joy in Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

PRAYER

If you are a Jesus-follower, close in prayer, thanking God for His work of salvation in your life and for continuing that work. If you are not a follower of Christ yet, are you ready to make the same decision the three Philippian people in Acts 16 made?

