

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joy in Suffering (Genuine Joy #3)

Week of May 12, 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)

This past Sunday was Mother's Day. What is one of your most impactful memories of your mother?

DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 1:12-14

1. a. How was Paul suffering when he wrote these words?

b. What are the results of Paul's suffering?

c. Despite his circumstance, it appears Paul actually has joy in his trial. According to what he wrote, why does Paul seem to actually rejoice in the midst of his suffering?

Read Philippians 1:15-18

2. a. Spend a few moments summarizing verses 15-17 (wait until part c to comment on verse 18).

b. Why would some "preach Christ from envy and rivalry"?



c. Why does Paul appear in verse 18 to not be bothered that some people preach Christ with impure motives?

d. What can Paul's response to the ministry of others teach you about following Jesus in 2019?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

3. a. Like Philippians, this passage was written by Paul to a church of Jesus-followers. He knew his readers were facing trials as they sought to follow Christ. How does Paul "pastor" (shepherd/guide) them through their suffering?

b. How can these same words help "pastor" you when you face "trials of various kinds"? (James 1:3-4)

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

Close in prayer, asking God to help you "suffer well." If you are struggling with something right now, share it with the group so they can pray with you about this trial.

