

“Joy In The Everyday: Emphasis On Jesus”

Growth Group Guide

May 17, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

The word magnify in the Bible can mean things like: 1) to make great, 2) to make famous, or 3) making Jesus’s greatness more important and esteemed. When Jesus is magnified in our lives, how does that benefit the Church, our personal walk, and those around us?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Spirit to lead your time of discussion. Praise the Lord that the greatest thing in life is for Jesus to be magnified!

Psalm 34:3 ESV. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

“Thank you, Father, that You so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ...Thank You that He walked here on earth radiating the brightness of Your glory and flawlessly expressing Your nature...and so, through Him, people saw You in action, involved with them, available to meet their needs. ...Thank You that through the Gospels I can watch this beloved One walk among ordinary people. I can hear the gracious words that came from His lips. I can see His compassion and tenderness toward needy people, His anger at hypocrisy, His faithfulness, His intense love for His followers. Fairest Lord Jesus! You alone are my heart’s desire...my chief delight...my soul’s glory, joy and crown.” (Myers, Ruth & Warren. 31 Days of Praise, Day 2. Kindle.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Philippians 1:15-20.** How are you surprised by what Paul shares in this passage?
2. **Read Philippians 1:15-17.** Paul is describing two groups in the Christians at Rome. What characteristics does Paul use to describe each group? What is similar and what is different?
3. With your list from question 2, **read Galatians 5:19-23.** How do these verses help you clarify these two groups further? How would you describe their method of operation and main driving motive?
4. You should have two clearly defined groups following questions 2 and 3. **Now read Galatians 5:17.** How does this verse apply to these two groups? How does it apply to issues we’ve seen or experienced with Christian communities and churches, or the Church at-large?
5. **Read Philippians 1:18.** What is Paul’s priority and what gives him joy? What is Paul choosing not to focus on? How is it possible for Paul to live this way (i.e., his method and motive).

6. What Paul experienced then still exists today. How can his response encourage us to approach these sorts of situations differently? Read **Galatians 1:6-9.** What clarification does this add?
7. Do you think Paul means we turn a blind eye to fleshly, self-centered living (methods and motives)? Why or why not? Galatians 5 may help.
8. Paul has clearly demonstrated that a good thing (i.e., Jesus being preached) has come from people who are doing it in a fleshly, sinful way. What do you think about this? How might this cause us to be more discerning in assuming all preaching, evangelism, outreach, and ministry is coming from the right method and motive?
9. If you find a wrong method and motive, in yourself or someone else, how might you work to bring change in an encouraging way?
10. We all have preferences about things we like (ex. church music, programming, preaching style, service structure, carpet color, etc.), which is ok. Based on our conversation, what causes preferences to become major issues? How might we guard against this?
11. **Read Philippians 1:18-20.** In these verses, what shows us that Jesus is the emphasis in Paul’s life? That his method is dependence, and his motive is focused on Jesus?
12. Paul wanted Jesus to be magnified in his life. Warren Wiersbe shares the idea of thinking about magnification like a telescope and microscope. Telescopes brings stars into closer view; microscopes make tiny things big. How might our lives, lived in dependence with a focus on Jesus, be like a telescope or a microscope for Jesus?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Emphasis on Jesus is our source of joy, not the method or motive used to point to Him.** When Jesus is the main focus, we are zeroed in on our source of joy. As the prayer in the Worship section says, “[He is] my chief delight...my soul’s glory, joy and crown.” It’s good news that we can have Him this way even if other people around us are selfishly focused instead. Consider your thoughts on questions 6, 9, and 12. How might Jesus be encouraging you to grow or to magnify Him joyously? Pause with Jesus; He is yours!

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

We have missionaries in countries that require their names to be kept confidential. One of those missionaries is in Nepal. He is an evangelist who visits villages where most people never have heard of Jesus, and he has helped hundreds of them become followers of Christ. Up to 215 people groups in Nepal are Unreached! Challenges can abound (dangerous terrain, governmental opposition, persecution, weather, and personal needs). Please pray that the Lord would “grant him good health, resilience, and perseverance. That he finds joy and fulfillment in his service, even amidst challenges and any setbacks. Pray for wisdom and discernment and that he could build meaningful relationships and communicate God’s truth in ways that resonate deeply.”* (*adapted from His Feet International/hisfeet.com)

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