

“Joy In The Everyday: The Genuine Article”

Growth Group Guide

August 16, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

“The genuine article” means “the real thing, authentic, and not fake.” Give examples from categories like objects, emotions, people, and your identity in Christ. Why do we value “genuine articles?” As a Christian, how does being a genuine child of God, a genuine new creation, bring you joy?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer praising the Father! He has made you and me genuinely His and part of His family.

Romans 8:14-16 MSG. This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are: Father and children.

1 Peter 2:10 PHILLIPS. In the past you were not “a people” at all: now you are the people of God. In the past you had no experience of his mercy, but now it is intimately yours.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Philippians 3:1-3.** In verse 1, Paul says rejoice IN the Lord. Not rejoice in the idea of the Lord but that we live IN the Lord Jesus. And in Him, we live in an environment of joy. Our joy is linked to our permanent relationship with Jesus and always available. Circumstances can’t change or diminish it. How is this encouraging? Share about a time when you had joy and it seemed surprising.
2. Paul encourages the Philippians to have joy just before writing about legalism issues. Why? In the Greek, the same root word is used for “joy” and “grace.” How might joy (i.e., grace) be a helpful defense against the fleshly “earn my way with God” type of living (legalism)?
3. In verse 2, Paul warns the Philippians to look out for false teachers (the Judaizers). He uses some colorful word pictures to describe them. Share what you think about this group and Paul’s approach.
4. In verse 3, Paul says WE are the “true circumcision.” He is talking spiritually and not physically. **Read Romans 2:25-29, Colossians 2:9-12, and Ezekiel 36:26-27.** What do you discover about this?
5. **Read Galatians 6:15 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.** From these verses, what matters? Can we be sure we have what matters? If so, how?
6. Also in Philippians 3:3, worship is something for the everyday, in fact, every moment of everyday. It’s possible because we live in the Spirit 24/7, just as we live in Jesus 24/7. Our worship comes from the Spirit through our whole being (body, soul, and spirit). If worship encompasses all this, how does it look in our everyday experiences and moments?

7. Look at the word “glory” in verse 3 (“glory in Christ”). It includes the meanings of joy and boasting. Describe ways we take joy in Jesus and boast in Him. In what ways does He take joy over you and honor you?
8. Another meaning of “glory” in verse 3 is “to hold your head high.” How are we able to “hold our head high IN Jesus” in both confidence and humility (Philippians 2:8, 13)?
9. Paul says we are not to trust, depend, or have any confidence in the flesh. **Read John 6:63, Romans 7:18, Galatians 5:17, and Romans 8:6.** How do these verses further confirm what he says?
10. The Bible has nothing good to say about the flesh (living life our own way, in our own power). Why do you think we still get caught thinking that “God helps those who help themselves?” Why is it essential to reject this thinking in favor of life in the Spirit?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: We are God’s true people, not because of a symbol, but by being a new creation.** If you’ve been around Christianity for a while, you know legalists like the Judaizers still exist today. What gives them away? It’s never Jesus alone but always Jesus plus something else, even if it looks good. Paul’s defense, or remedy, for legalism in ourselves is to remember as Christians we ARE genuinely God’s people (the true circumcision) in Christ. Do you have difficulty believing you are the “genuine article” as a Christian? Talk to God about why. Then choose to believe the truth, cut from the flesh, and live by His power (the Spirit IN you). Purpose to live from all you have in Jesus, including the joy and honor He has for you. Let your whole being worship Him this week. You are a beloved child of God.

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

Our missionary in Nepal, who is a gifted preacher with a heart for the spiritually lost, will soon take evangelism trips after the rainy season is over. Around the second week of September, he will travel to western Nepal to preach about Jesus. Recently, he was given the opportunity to speak for 500 people. He greatly appreciates your prayers as God continues to open up doors for him to preach to the unsaved about salvation in Jesus alone. Pray for anyone who becomes a Christian through his messages that they would be courageous for Christ, protected from persecution, and find brother’s and sister’s in Christ to fellowship with week to week. Unless a whole village is saved in Christ, many new Christians face intense rejection from their Hindi families. Also, please pray for a woman with cancer who our missionary’s team is helping. Pray that the Lord will provide funds for her further treatment and full healing by His power.

“And he [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.” Matthew 4:23 ESV.

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