

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"LIVING JOY" NOVEMBER 12 & 13

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Writing from prison Paul gives us incredible insight into the power of joy that is rooted in a life of following Jesus. Sixteen times in four short chapters he uses the word joy giving us a deeper understanding of where real joy comes from and warning us about the internal and external threats that will seek to steal our joy. At a time where the joy quotient is low for so many people Paul shows us a better way.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 2 minutes

Read Psalm 133 as an opening prayer. Ask each person in the group to read a verse until all verses have been prayed.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

The [Disciple] Life of becoming more like Jesus is always rooted in what he has first done for us. A living joy is never discovered by trying harder or doing more, it is found in God working in and through us. See all that Jesus has done for you and be filled with a living joy.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Think of people you know who bring you joy. How do their facial expressions make you feel? How about the tone of their voice? What is their countenance like? What do they do that exhibits Jesus to you and to others?

weekend message series

re: Joy

To: Philippi

From: Paul, The Apostle

Subject: re: Joy

@ChurchMail

WOODBURY LUTHERAN

November 12 & 13, 2022

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. - Philippians 2:14-15 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Philippians 2:1-18.

What stands out to you from the passage and why?

Reflect on the questions in verse 1. How do you respond? Notice Paul's challenge, his "so what" in verses 2-11.

What has Jesus done for you? If someone asked you that today, consider how you might respond.

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Where have you seen or received encouragement, love, fellowship, and/or compassion from God's people this week?

In verse 2 Paul encourages the Philippians to agree wholeheartedly, love one another, and work together in one mind and purpose. Is there a situation in your life with other Jesus followers where Jesus is nudging you to put these into practice? What first step would you need to take in order to make that happen?

God changes our desires to his, and gives us his power. In the midst of the darkness of this world, what would help you find joy in Jesus to shine his light brighter in your life?

Read John 15:9-12. What does Jesus tell us will fill us with joy? Share a story where the love of God through others has brought you joy.



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 5 minutes

Reflect on the Scripture Card Prayer Prompt individually.

Share prayer requests and pray in a circle prayer praying for the person on you LEFT. The leader or apprentice may close with the following prayer:

"Dear Jesus, mold our will to your will. Mold our character to be like your character. Help us to do everything without complaining or arguing so that others will see you in all we do and say. Remind us each day that we are children of God. Let us find our joy in you and give us your power to shine like bright lights in a dark world. Amen."

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Invite God to show you how he is at work in you, making you more and more like Jesus.

Take verses 14 & 15 and put them in a prayer...asking God to help you and empower you to live this kind of life today.

Thank God that he did what you could not do so that you could be embraced as his child.

Live It Out

Spend some time this week reflecting on Philippians 2:1-11 and take the challenge to re-write verses 5-11 in your own words. Pray and identify one simple, practical way you could "live it out" this week.

Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 10 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to reflect on this. If there is time during group, pass out blank paper and try it out now!