

Small Group Questions | Evidence of The Spirit | John 16:19-24

For the past several weeks, we have been looking at the conversation Jesus had with his disciples on the night before he was crucified (John 13-17). This was his last opportunity to be with them and teach them. Because of this, the stuff Jesus talked about with the disciples was important. In your small group this week, you are going to focus in on what Jesus had to say about joy. Jesus both wanted and expected his disciples to walk in joy. Let's get into it...

Read John 16:16-33

1. Picture yourself in the room with Jesus as he shares the things you have just read. What are you feeling as you listen to him? What words of Jesus in this passage would bring you hope?

Reread John 16:19-23

2. Why do you think Jesus spends time talking about joy in this context? At the end of the passage Jesus also talks to his disciples about "peace." Do you see a connection between joy and peace? Explain.
3. How would you define joy? What is the difference between joy and happiness?
4. In what kind of situations do you find yourself struggling to be joyful? Is there anything in these words of Jesus that you find especially helpful when you are struggling to find joy?
5. In the message on Sunday, Doug talked about three different qualities of the joy Jesus offers us. What are these three? Which one is the most meaningful to you at this time in your life? Why?

Read Philippians 1:12-26

6. Even though Paul sits in a prison as he writes this letter to the Philippians, it oozes with joy. (Remember Philippi is the same place where Paul and Silas held a worship service while they were in jail--Acts 16:16-40). What reasons do you find Paul offering in these verses that account for his joy? How do these relate to the applications Doug offered in his message: (Look beyond the circumstances. Listen to the right tune. Lean into God's Kingdom.)
7. Is joy a gift Jesus gives or something you for which you need to fight? Explain.
8. As you close, talk about the power of a "joyful Christian."
9. Pray for each other. Pray that each of you in your group would walk in the joy of Jesus. Pray that Coastline would be a people of authentic joy. Thank Jesus for the joy he offers in every situation.