



4.22.18

ROOTED IN "JOY"
GROUP GUIDE

GOAL

That we would be anchored in a joy that would help us to weather every storm.

BIG IDEA

"I've got this joy, joy, joy, down in my heart."

CONVERSATION STARTERS (Pick one question)

Have you ever had or thrown a surprise party? What was that like how was their reaction?
Describe a moment that caused you great joy, what was it? (marriage proposal, discovering your having a child, getting to the school you were applying for, etc.)

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

Did Pastor Chris say anything that spoke to you during the sermon?
Where you challenged by anything?
What did you learn about joy that you previously did not know?

GOING DEEPER IN THE SCRIPTURE

Read Nehemiah 8:1-18

As the people are hearing the word of God being read by Ezra, and explained by the Levites we see the people respond in different ways. In worship (v. 6) in mourning (v.9) and joy (v.12). How do you respond when you encounter the word(s) of the Lord in your life?

In Ezra 3:4, we find Israel had been celebrating the feasts of booths, but in v.17 Nehemiah tells us that they had not done so since the time of Joshua. What was different about this time as compared to all the other times they celebrated up until now?

The people of Israel did the right thing in the wrong way. How can we learn to do the right thing in the right way?

The people of Israel were invited to celebrate at the reading of the Law (Word of God), not mourn. Why was it important that they celebrated the Feast of Booths (or the other required feasts Deut. 16:16)?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

During the sermon Pastor Chris talked about joy being like different types of plants: annuals, perennials, and evergreens. Where do you see your joy?

The Joy of the Lord is meant to be an anchor for the soul, helping us to remain steadfast in the deepest and darkest storms. How do we distinguish happiness from joy?

If joy comes from revelation, where do you find yourself now? In ruin, in returning, or in restoration?

LIVE IT OUT! ACT IT OUT!

How is the Joy of the Lord evergreen in my life? What are the disciplines that I need to do to keep myself in the joy of the Lord.

PRAYER

Take time to share prayer requests with one another pray for your needs.