



Home Guide

Good Fruit Week 2

Beginning Prayer

Start your group by asking God and His spirit to move in your time together. While God is always with us, something special happens when we communally ask Him to move in our time with others. Pray and ask God and His Spirit to move in your hearts and your minds as a group.

This Week's Topic: Joy

This week we continued our series Good Fruit. This week, we talked about joy, an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. Biblical Joy is not an emotion like the dictionary might describe. Rather the Greek word in Galatians used for joy is defined as "grace recognized". This idea can be seen in the two passages below.

"Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything."

2 Corinthians 6:10

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15: 9-12

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds"

James 1:2

When most of us think of the word "joy" we think of an emotional feeling. Something that could be compared to immense happiness. The problem is that happiness is often a fickle thing. No matter how great our happiness in a moment, it only takes one moment to change the mood. Biblical joy is the opposite of this. This is something seen in the Corinthians passage above. Joy and aching can exist at the same time. Joy isn't reliant on our happiness.

How do we become joyful? We must recognize the grace of God in our lives. We must also recognize that God wants us to have joy. This is something seen in John 15 above. God wants us to be joyful like Jesus wanted his disciples to be. It is not shameful to be joyful. The challenging idea is in James 1:2 implies that we should "consider" something joy. That joy isn't just passive, it is an active choice to consider. An active choice to "recognize" the grace of God in the midst of the trial. That is Godly joy. The active choice of recognition.

Discussion Questions

While the fruit of the Spirit is ultimately produced from our relationship with Jesus, a reflection of our own lives and actions can show us areas we are strong in or lacking. Discuss



these questions in your group and at the end of your time pray that God would continue to grow His fruit in each of your group member's lives.

1. How have you viewed "joy" in the past?
2. Has there been a moment where you experienced joy in the midst of unhappiness?
3. How do you think you choose joy in the midst of trial and unhappiness? What would that practically look like in our lives?

Ending Prayer

Finish your time together with prayer. Pray for your group, pray for our community, pray for our church. Whatever it be, just pray. We believe that prayer ignites movement, and that community should be rooted and surrounded in prayer.