

The Bible Doesn't Say That God just wants you to be happy!

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. ³As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. ⁴"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" ⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. ⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" ¹¹"No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." John 8:2-11 NLT

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. Matthew 7:11 NLT

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. Colossians 3:1-4 NLT

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever thought about dropping everything and following your heart? What did you end up doing?
- What do you think make phrases like "you do you," "YOLO," and "follow your heart" so popular?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Why do you think it's easier for us to see other people's sins than our own sin?
- Why do we sometimes think that happiness and holiness are at odds with each other? Where did we learn that?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Are there any areas of your life where you've been looking for happiness in the wrong place?
- Read Colossians 2:1-4. How do set our sights on the realities of Heaven instead of the things of this earth?
- How can we learn to use every temptation as an opportunity to depend on God instead of an opportunity to sin?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for being invested in our ultimate good. Help us to embrace the lasting, transformative happiness only You can offer. Help us to resist temptation and to depend on You more every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Encourage one another to depend on Christ by holding each other accountable. Reach out this week by text, email, phone, or in person.
- Memorize Colossians 3:1-4. Print it out and put it somewhere where you will see it often to remind you to keep your sights set on the right goal.
- Examine where you were taught that happiness and holiness are at odds with each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to break that and any other false belief you have been taught off of you!