



**8-WEEK STUDY ON
COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD
BIBLE PASSAGES**

WEEK 1



TWISTED

WEEKLY READING

Philippians 4:4-13

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT) Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 Peter 1:14-16 (NLT) So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

Read ahead for next week: Matthew 7:1-5

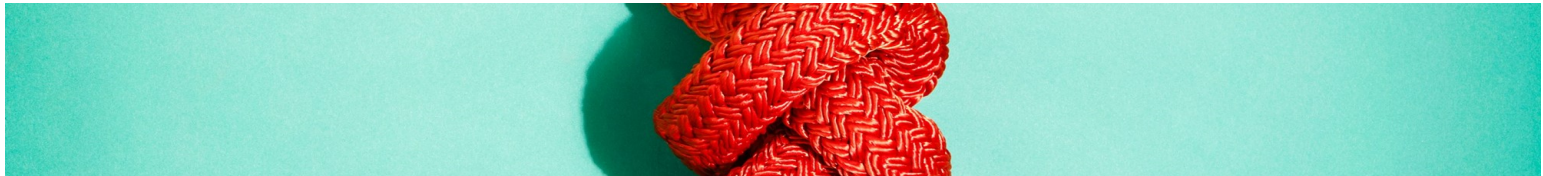
GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To address the commonly misunderstood phrase "**God wants me to be happy**" from a Biblical perspective and to properly understand what the Bible teaches about our happiness.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is one activity that makes you happy?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When you think about the phrase, "**God wants me to be happy**," what are some reasons people say this?
 2. While God certainly has our best interest in mind, what are some potentially damaging side effects of believing that my individual happiness is God's top priority?
 3. How has this popular phrase affected our culture's understanding of God and Scripture?
 4. Read Paul's description of his trials in **2 Corinthians 1:3-9**. What does this passage tell us about our circumstances and our happiness?
 5. Read Paul's description of his trials in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. What does this passage tell us about our circumstances and our happiness?
 6. When you think about the fact that Paul was in prison when he wrote **Philippians 4:4-13**, how does that affect your understanding of that passage?
 7. Pastor Doug talked about finding our true happiness, joy, contentment, and satisfaction in God. What are some ways to actually put that into practice?
 8. If time permits, read **1 John 2:15-17** and **1 Peter 1:14-16** and discuss.
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WEEK 1

PRAY

Pray for each other: Have the group leader or a volunteer pray over the difficult circumstances group members are facing.

Pray on your own: Every day this week, ask God to help you find joy and contentment in your circumstances.

ACTION STEPS

Write **Philippians 4:4** on a post-it note and put it on your mirror at home. Read it out loud as a reminder before you start your day and before you go to bed.

NOTES

