

Part 3: Surprising Joy
12/17/17

Small Group Questions

- Which do you experience more frequently: happiness or joy? Describe the difference within you when you experience happiness and joy.
- *Read Nehemiah 8:10.* This verse mentions giving food and drink to people who don't have as many resources as you do. Do you find yourself joyful when you're doing God's work / obeying Him? (Also in your discussion of this question, consider this great quote from C.S. Lewis: "Joy is the oil to the wheels of our obedience.")
- *Read Psalm 118:24.* Reflect for a moment on whether or not you typically fall into the trap of believing that you'll find joy once your circumstances change. For you, does any part of that trap include discontentment?
- What is your thought and input on the idea that joy is commanded in Scripture, and that joylessness is a sin?
- *Read 1Thessalonians 1:6-7.* Some of our ancient brothers and sisters in Christ experienced terrible persecution for their faith, yet the believers in Thessalonica endured it with joy. How is it that the most powerful joy is compatible with pain and suffering? Do you think it's truly possible to have joy, no matter what? (Don't settle for the easy answer on this one, dig deep within yourself.)
- Can you remember a time when it didn't make sense that you were joyful, but you were able to have joy because of God? If yes, please share with your group.
- *Read Psalm 51:8.* The context of this verse is David's famous repenting for his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. Have you ever realized before now that joy can be asked for? Have you ever done that?
- It's not too late to participate in the **Share The Joy** effort that E-Free is promoting. Have you participated? If so, how? If not, decide who you are going to share joy with, and how.

