

Main Street Church - Life Group Questions

Series: **JOY** (Philippians) Message: April 19. **Part 2- Joy in the Struggle**



Connect

: **THANKFUL 3** – Take 1 minute to think of / write down three things you are thankful for this past week. Share...

Open with Prayer

“Jesus – You know how we struggle. Thank you for engaging our struggles for us & with us. We need Your help more than we know. Thank you for giving us one another (the Church/Life Group) to lean on, learn from, and pray with. Holy Spirit we invite You to come and be our Teacher, Counselor & Guide in our time together. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

Check In (Don’t skip over this)

:: What has God been showing/speaking to you about in your personal time with Him?

:: How can we as a group encourage one another to spend intentional time with Jesus?

{Devotional ideas (Prayer booklets...), Bible Reading Plan, Podcasts, Accountability, Encounter God...}

Sunday Message Feedback :: Joy In The Struggle

What jumped out at you from Sunday’s message?

Which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

What did Jesus say to you to you this past week through the message?

- 1. Paul wrote the book of Philippians while he was in prison**—in chains—under constant surveillance. Where in your life do you feel chained to something? Your prison could be your work, school, schedule, health or relationship, but how can you instead choose JOY...
- 2. Read Romans 5:1-5.** Paul tells us we can rejoice even when we run into problems or trials.
 - :: What does Paul say we can expect to gain through problems or trials?
 - :: How has this verse been true in your own life?
- 3.** Think of a time when you asked God, “**Why me?**” We may not find the answer on this side of heaven, so Shawn told us about a better questions to ask – “**What Now?**” How does asking this question change your approach or attitude in the struggle you are or have faced? Discuss.
- 4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6.** How can obeying this verse fill you with joy during your struggle(s)? Discuss.
 - :: How can our “**own understanding**” or perspective limit or cripple us?
- 5. Name a hardship or a sin that God helped you overcome.**
 - :: How might God be using that misery as your ministry today?
 - :: How can you use that experience to help another person going through that same struggle?

6. **Happiness** is anchored to our circumstances, but **JOY** is anchored to our perspective.

Author, John Ortberg states,

“Saying the phrase, ‘it could be worse,’ can be a powerful exercise in the development of joy.”

:: What are some areas in your life that could be worse?

:: Where could you use a change in perspective? Discuss.

APPLICATION & PRAYER: (Break into groups of 3-4, or Men & Women)

READ the following verses. As they are read have group members listen and then write down which verse speaks and encourages them the most in regards to facing the struggles of life.

Share why it spoke to you and then commit to memorizing that Scripture.

- **Philippians 1:12-14**
- **Philippians 1:19**
- **Philippians 1:21**
- **Philippians 1:29**
- **Romans 5:3-4**
- **Philippians 1:25**
- **Isaiah 55:8**
- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- **Romans 8:28**
- **John 16:33**

PRAY :: In Groups of 3-4, share briefly (not the whole story) **1 personal struggle that you need prayer for and pray for the person on your right.**

Example: *“JESUS, thank you for (the person on your right). You know about their struggle with _____. Please fill them with Your Holy Spirit this week and help them to experience Your JOY in the midst of it (whether it be through healing, repentance, forgiveness, freedom, peace, strength, discernment, protection, hope...). Help us as to encourage and pray for them this week. In Your Name we Pray, Amen.”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

:: **PRAYER SUMMIT** – April 26th. 6pm. **Kids Summit** program provided for kids ages 2-11. Let’s go a group!

:: **ENCOUNTER GOD Retreat** – Fri&Sat. May 1-2. Register Now! www.mainstreetchurch.ca/encountergod