



Christmas Joy

John 15:11

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to engage in making disciples in your small group. They are based off of the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you take the time to listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. You can find the messages on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. Define joy. What produces joy?
2. Is experiencing joy an option for the follower of Christ? How do verses like 1 Thessalonians 5:16 impact your view of joy in the Christian walk?
3. Do others describe you as a joyful person? Describe a time recently when someone noticed your joy.
4. What is the source of all true joy? Where are you looking for joy in the wrong places? (possessions, people, pleasures?)
 - a. How can we tie our joy to the person of Jesus Christ instead of counterfeits like possessions, people, and pleasures?
5. Emotion is a direct result of what you chose to set your mind on. Can you find an example of this in your life?
6. What is your mind set on these days? Are you thinking rightly about the issue? Can you rejoice in the way it compares with scripture? Do you need to repent because of a contrast?
7. Every day either builds up joy or lets it slip away, by whether or not we are abiding in God through obedience. Are worship, prayer, and Bible intake a priority for you every day? Where can you grow in obedience?
8. Describe how you are doing with walking in the spirit on a daily basis. Where have you drifted into letting your flesh direct your days?
9. Please share a time when failure has driven you to Jesus. What would the result have been if you had allowed it to keep you from going to Him?
10. This quote from DA Carson was shared in the sermon: "The Son does not give his disciples his joy as a discrete package; he shares his joy insofar as they share his obedience, the obedience that willingly faces death to self-interest." In what ways have you seen this prove to be true in your walk with Christ?