



WEEK 3 | JOY IN LIFE OR DEATH

1. CATCH UP ON LIFE:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Suggested time: 20-30 minutes

- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

2. REVIEW THE MISSION:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

1. People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

- ### 2. Plan:
- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: *Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.*

3. SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

I. SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Primary Passage: **Philippians 1:18-26**

Read **Philippians 1:18-26** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup. (These questions can be used with any passage of the Bible to study on your own.)

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?

Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

II. SERMON DISCUSSION

What stood out to you from the sermon?

In the sermon we said that because of Jesus:

1. **We have a new basis for life**
2. **We have a new purpose in life.**
3. **We have the secret alchemy of life.**

In light of our new basis and purpose in life, where have you seen Jesus change you? How have you seen your desires changing to be like Jesus's desires? How have you seen your purpose/mission change to be more like Jesus's mission?

*Following
Jesus
Together*

For this sermon series, it's our hope that we would be a people of joy no matter the circumstances. To do that, our corporate practice for this series is gratitude. (If you haven't yet, watch this video as a LifeGroup introducing the practice: vimeo.com/545184590.)

In the sermon we said that in Christ, life's pain is merely birth pain. Because of that, we can have joy even in the midst of suffering and circumstances knowing that God uses it to make us more like Him. Where in your life do you forget that? What's one thing you can put into place this week to remind yourself of this when life gets difficult?

How's practicing gratitude gone for you this last week? What's one thing you're grateful for this week?

4. ENGAGE THE HEART:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

We fight deceitful ideas with truth. We do this regularly through resources like the Digging Deeper Chart, Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency, and the Truth Train. All of these tools are available at FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession

How are you abiding with Jesus (Bible reading and prayer) this week?

What sin do you need to confess to God? What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it?

Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What step(s) do you need to take to walk in obedience?

Pray: *James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other. **Pray** for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.*