



Greater Things

Joy - Part 1 Study Guide

Joy and happiness are related, yet different. Happiness is based on what happens, but joy runs deeper. Events are meaningful not because of the activity accomplished, but because of the people present. When we spend time in relationships with people and God we find joy. As we discuss being present, paying attention, and not living in the past or the future, we see how a joy-filled life leads to Greater Things!

1. Who in your life can brighten your day as soon as you see them?

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” - Psalms 16:11 (ESV)

2. **Read Psalms 16:8-11.** According to this passage, what are some of the benefits of being in God’s presence?

“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy spirit from me.”
- Psalms 51:11 (ESV)

3. **Read Psalms 51:8, 11-12.** These verses express David’s intense desire to repent and *be present* with God after a period of deliberate sinfulness. How can you *be present* in your relationships with God and others?

4. **Read Philippians 4:4-9.** According to these verses how can you combat the tendency to allow bitterness and worry into your mind?

5. **Read Psalm 5:11.** No matter the situation, God's presence is fullness of joy. Pay attention! Be present! Live in the present! Discuss in your group how you can invite God's presence and joy into a difficult situation or relationship.