



GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK April 17 – 23

MAIN IDEA

With Christ, we can find joy in any circumstance.

CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. What was a difficult circumstance that had an unexpected blessing?

DIG IN (UNDERSTANDING) 15 min

The theme of John 16 is silver linings. Jesus is talking about the difficulty the disciples will face after his death and how these difficulties will have blessings they can't see yet. Let's dig in.

1. Read John 16:1-3, 16, 31-32. The disciples were confused when Jesus said these things, but how did you see these things fulfilled about Jesus and the disciples?
2. Why might have Jesus told them about these discouraging things? How do you imagine you would have felt in this moment if you were the disciples?

3. Read John 16:6-11. Why did Jesus say it was a good thing he had to leave? Who is the Advocate (NIV)? What will the Advocate do that is of value?
4. Read John 16:20-22. What is the silver lining of the grief the disciples will experience? What do you think about the childbirth analogy?
5. Read John 16:33. Jesus makes three distinct statements in this verse. What are they?
6. As Christ-followers why is it important that we understand we'll have trouble in this world? How do the words of Jesus give peace and courage?

GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

1. Read James 1:2-5. What are some silver linings about our faith we can find when we face trials in life?
2. Read Philippians 4:4-7. What's a practical way you can take Paul's instruction and find joy in the midst of trials? (And don't just say the “right answer,” truly tell us how leaning on God gives you joy.)

STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

1. Both passages show us that a practical way to find joy everyday is through prayer. This is not just a Sunday school answer but holds power. Commit this week to spend daily time in prayer, practicing James 1 and Philippians 4.
2. This is a great opportunity for your group to serve together:



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this opportunity