

## **LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE - Fruit of the Spirit - JOY (Week 2)**

### **Talk It Over**

- What are some things that make you happy?
- How much time do you spend doing them?
- Do the things you enjoy ever prevent you from spending time with God?

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Read the passages below and discuss what stands out most.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:14 -16 NLT**
  - **2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT**

Is it possible to always be joyful? (**1 Thessalonians 5:16**)

### **John 15:11 NCV**

I have told you these things so that you can have the same joy I have and so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy.

- Are there some mini-gods in your life?  
(stuff, perfection, having your way, control, fitness, food, family)

### **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 NLT**

For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

**JOY can't be bigger than its source...**

### **Psalm 1:1-2 GNT**

Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night.

**Don't pursue the blessing, pursue the Blesser**

- Read the verses below and share with the group a time when you experienced joy during a trial.
  - **Luke 6:20-23 NLT**
  - **Romans 5:2-5 NLT**

## **Hebrews 12:2 BSB**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Discuss sin and its effects on our lives.

## **Proverbs 1:30-31**

They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.

## **Psalms 5:4 NLT**

O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.

- Read aloud **1 John 2:15-17** and share a time when things of the world failed to bring you lasting joy.

## **Confession of sin reunites us with the God of lasting happiness.**

Confession brings healing. Offer a safe space for confession for those attending your group. Pray with them.

## **Psalms 32:1-2 NLT**

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

## **John 15:5-11 NLT**

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

## **Psalms 28:7 NLT**

The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

## **Wrap It Up**

- What there a wall in your life that is keeping you from seeing what God wants you to see?
- Take time to encourage your group to remain connected to God, the true source of JOY.
- Share prayer needs and pray for those attending your group.