

Rooted

“Being Rooted Produces Joy”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Home Community Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or write your own questions.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to transform our lives from the inside out. Pray that the Spirit would root himself deeply into our hearts as we reflect on Jesus’ attributes in this new series. Finally, pray that God would continually transform our body, mind, and soul in order to become more like Jesus every day!

Check-In: (5 minutes) What was one strategy that you were able to implement this past week in order to walk in step with the Spirit and deny the flesh? What were the results over the week? Review and update any prayer request your group may have shared last week.

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Larry led us into the second week of our new series titled *Rooted*. Pastor Larry started off this Sunday by explaining the differences between happiness and joy in our lives. Out of this observation, Pastor Larry identified five different truths about how joy can radically transform us regardless of our circumstances. Finally, Pastor Larry encourages the church to find joy in the Holy Spirit by being rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ!

“God wants us to be holy, not necessarily happy.”– Pastor Larry Vold

Suggested Questions

- *Read Galatian 5:16-23; James 1:1-4, 12; Luke 6:22-23:* Pastor Larry uses these passages to indicate that the difference between joy and happiness is that joy does not depend on one's circumstance while happiness is predicated on happenings. In what circumstances are you finding it difficult to experience happiness, but are praying to experience a deeply-rooted joy from the Holy Spirit?
 - *Joy can overturn anxiety (Psalm 94:19), anguish, sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:2-5), and the uncertainty of one's work (Psalm 126:5-6):* How is anxiety, anguish, sorrow, or uncertainty of the profitability of your work prohibiting you from experiencing the joy that you discussed in the first question?

- *Read John 15:8-11, 16:20-24, 17:13:* Pastor Larry uses these passages to emphasize how joy is predicated on obedience to Jesus (practical), Jesus' resurrection (theological), and having a relationship with the Father (relational). In the midst of your troubling situation, what are some practical ways that you can abide in these three truths and draw near to the Holy Spirit?
 - *Joy is the guaranteed hope (Proverbs 10:28) and the God-given response to the gift of salvation (Acts 16:25-34; Luke 10:17-20; Romans 14:17):* In your circle of influence, who do you know that may be desperate to experience this type of joy? How can you share the joy found in Jesus with them and how can we pray for them to experience salvation and serve them in love this week?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for laying down his life so that we could be transformed by the Holy Spirit into becoming more like Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in our hearts throughout this *Rooted* series so that we could share in Christ's joy as a group. Finally, as the group goes out this week, ask the Holy Spirit to root Himself deeply in our souls so that we may abide in Him and we may experience his fruit!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- Commit to drawing near to the Holy Spirit practically, theologically, and relationally. Be prepared to share the area in which God is calling you to draw nearer to Him!
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would dwell in your group! Check in with your group throughout the week and pray that joy would take root in their hearts
- Pray for one person outside of your group and think about how you could share the love of Christ with them! Continue to brainstorm creative ways your group can work together to serve around you!