

Living God's will | 1 Thessalonians 2021 Fall #10

Tips: One pitfall to avoid in a group is talking about subjects that can divide unnecessarily. Be especially careful when politics or denominations or public figures or controversial subjects get discussed. People all come with different backgrounds and something that might not bother one, might be painful to another. Remember to model love and charity and encourage speaking in gracious ways. Be gentle and refrain from dogmatic statements that shut down those who are still learning God' truth.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) When do you remember experiencing great joy?
- 2) Do you remember receiving or writing a meaningful letter? What were the circumstances?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read I Thessalonians 1 - Joy in being His.

1) Paul addresses the believers as those "in Christ" (vs 1:1). How does being in Christ bring you joy? (See John 15:11)

2) What do you learn from vs 6 regarding the origin of joy in spite of severe suffering?

Read I Thessalonians 2 - Joy in being useful.

3) Why does Paul consider the Thessalonians to be his hope, joy and crown (vs 20)?

4) When have you taken joy from the service you do for the Lord?

Read I Thessalonians 3 - Joy in being relationally connected.

5) Despite Paul's distress in Athens, the report of the Thessalonians gives him joy. What phrase indicates rejoicing in vs 8?

6) Who of your family and friends is standing strong in the Lord and how can that bring you joy?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4 - Joy in being sanctified

7) Paul's command to rejoice always comes after a chapter of admonition on holy living. How are holiness and joy connected?

8) Where do we get the power to live a holy life according to vs 7 and 8?

9) Which command in this chapter needs more wholehearted obedience?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5 - Joy in Christ's return.

10) What details do you learn here about Christ's return that could give you joy and build others up?

11) What are you most looking forward to after His return?

12) Do you think it is possible to be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

1) Dear God, How can my relationship with you become a greater source of joy?

2) Dear God, What circumstances are stealing my joy? What truth would help me find joy there?

3) Dear God, Is there anything impure in my life that is keeping me from living joyfully in you?

For Further Study

1) Use a concordance to look up the word Joy and do a short word study of how this word is used and what is its meaning in Greek or Hebrew.