

April 5/6, 2003

## Study Questions

*Experiencing Joy: A Study in Philippians*

### Experiencing Joy

Philippians Summary

Pastor Bryan Clark

#### Opening Discussion

1. On a scale of 1-5, how are you doing in experiencing joy on a daily basis? Would others say they view you as a joyful person?
2. What things are you willing or unwilling to address in your life in order to experience joy? In other words, what is it worth to you to experience joy each day?

#### Bible Study

1. The term “joy” or “rejoice” occurs 16 times in four short chapters. Go back and review Paul’s circumstances while writing this letter.

Is it fair to say our circumstances do not cause or limit our joy according to Paul?

2. Paul clearly states in chapter one that his God-given mission is to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. He views all his circumstances through this mission. The metaphor we used to understand this was the idea of boarding a battleship rather than a cruise ship (see 1:12-26 transcript). What is the difference between the mindset of a person boarding a cruise ship and one boarding a battleship?

To experience joy you must see your Christian life on this earth for what God intended it to be—a battle to advance the gospel. How does this affect how you view your circumstances and challenges each day?

3. Paul states we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling in 2:12. He means, given the seriousness of our eternal mission, we must be diligent to live the truth we say we believe. Go back and review chapters 2-4. What is conduct worthy of the gospel according to Paul?

On a scale of 1-5, rate how you are doing in each area. What will be necessary to improve and grow in each area?

#### Application

1. Joy doesn’t automatically flow because we’re Christians. We must choose to think and live rightly to experience joy. What is the most pressing area you need to address in your life to truly experience joy? What is your plan to address this need?

How can your LifeGroup help?