

Restoration Part 3

Small Group Questions: If Mama Ain't Happy

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Read: Psalm 16:11

Reflect

Katie opened by sharing a part of their story of restoration and how God has given her a heart for joy in her life, as well as a desire to see joy experienced in the lives of God's people. Joy is a fruit of the spirit and is a gift from God to be lived out as well as something that we can experience in his presence. Discuss what it might look and feel like to live with Joy.

1. Joy comes by knowing that I am part of God's Story and that he has a plan for my life.

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-16 and Psalm 31:7-8

- a. What have you seen God do in your story and reflect on the ways that you have experienced his steadfast love.
- b. Take some time to share how he has seen, known and delivered you.
- c. How does taking the time to remember and reflect on his presence in your story cultivate joy?

2. God is Going to work it out.

Read Psalm 93

- a. Katie asked the question: "what are ways that you need to know, God is working it out?".
Discuss what areas of your life where this might apply?
- b. Share about someone who has impacted you by their joy, how did their example impact your faith?

3. Choose to look beyond what's happening right now.

Reflect on the passage from Luke 2:10

- a. Discuss ways that as a group you can encourage one another to look beyond present circumstances and pursue joy.

4. We act in Joy When:

Read Isaiah 61:1-3, think about the ways Katie shared that we act in joy. (Serve with gladness, speak positive life giving words, put on praise) Are you seeing the fruit of joy in your life? Share the areas where you both see its fruit as well as areas that you would like to see joy cultivated.

Respond

God has a plan for your life, plans to prosper and to give hope and a future. His joy has been given to us, by the gift of his Holy Spirit. He desires for us to rejoice always and live lives marked by joy. Spend some time in prayer and reflection over these things. Ask God to give you a new desire for his presence that will result in great joy!

