

## Small Group Questions: Joy No Matter What

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### Read

Philippians 4:4, Philipians 2:1-11, James 3:16, James 4:10, Hebrews 12:2

### Reflect

Paul's journey back to Rome leaves him sidetracked, and among incredible circumstances. He eventually makes it to Rome, and experiences trials there for two years. Before facing his death, Paul wrote letters to the Philippian Church describing joy amidst tough circumstances.

Still today, we face many roadblocks to choosing joy. Pastor Josh Surratt describes how we can find joy that endures through the hard times of life.

## 2 KILLJOYS THAT HAVE TO GO

### 1. Living For Myself

- a. When we make ourselves the center of the universe, James 3 says we will find disorder and evil. Where are you making yourself the center of the universe?
- b. What selfish ambitions do you need to let go of to move forward?
- c. How can we develop pure hearts and pure motives to not make it all about us?

### 2. Living For The Applause

- a. 1 Peter 5:5 says that God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. When we humble ourselves, he will clear obstacles and make a path for us. What area of your life are you showing up prideful?
- b. How has God shown you a way after you've surrendered yourself and become humble?
- c. Where have you allowed the enemy to rob you of your joy?

Read the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5. Had Naaman remained prideful and walked away, he may never have experienced healing.

## INSTEAD BE HUMBLE

### 1. I don't demand what I think I deserve.

- a. What would it look like for you to walk into a room like Jesus did, and look for an opportunity to serve?

### 2. I empty out so I can be filled up.

- a. Jesus came to serve rather than be served. He emptied himself out by being a servant. What opportunities do you see to empty yourself out?
- b. What is stopping you from acting on those opportunities?

### 3. I do what's right even when it hurts.

- a. Because of the joy awaiting him, Jesus died a criminal's death, and God elevated him to the highest honor. What are some areas of your life where it would be painful to humble yourself?
- b. What good can arise from your humility?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you to humble yourself? How can your small group support you?