



BiG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

8.8/9.09 // Renegade Joy - Joy in Humility

BiG IDEA: *Joy starts with a life given to Christ; it is lived out in humility in service to others in the name of Jesus.*

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Share a time when you helped someone else and felt great doing it?

Option 2: Share how pursuing happiness resulted in problems rather than happiness.

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. The Declaration of Independence says ‘..and among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’

What are some ways Americans pursue happiness?

Do you think these bring true happiness?

What problems could be created by some of these pursuits?

2. Read **Philippians 4:4**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Think about Paul and Silas - beaten and in jail. Yet they were rejoicing.

What attitude did they have that made them rejoice in their suffering?

What things could we do that would help us to move toward a similar attitude?

3. How hard is it to not let your circumstances affect you? How does this rob you of your joy?

4. How would you explain the difference between happiness and joy? Does our media (TV, movies, papers, magazines...) emphasize happiness or joy? Why do you think they emphasize that?

5. Read Philippians 2:1-5

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

What would you say humility is?

What is the balance between humility and having a healthy self-worth based in Jesus?

6. Read Hebrews 12: 2,3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the **JOY** set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Did Jesus' joy come from sacrifice or self-interest?

How can this serve as an encouragement when we go through tough times?

Optional: Do you - or someone in the group - have an example of going through a difficult time and yet being joyful?

7. A Pew Research poll showed that those who go to church weekly are significantly happier than those who don't.

What could be some reasons for this?

How does a relationship with Jesus help us to have true joy?

8. What are some practical things we can do to help us experience joy by having true humility and serving others?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

This week, find at least one person who you can serve and put their needs before your own. Share the outcome of this with the group next week.

// Prayer _____

**Pray that we would have servants hearts like Jesus.
Pray thanks for Jesus' humility in dying to save us.**