



BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

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).

8.22/23.09 // Renegade Joy - Joy in Opposition

BiG iDEA: *Joy is found in living out the mission of God, and the mission is to be obedient.*

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Share a time when you faced opposition because of your faith journey. (Perhaps you were excluded, criticized or misunderstood because of your faith)

Option 2: Share a time when you worked hard but were a part of something bigger than yourself and felt great accomplishing something important. (Don't limit yourself to Christian things only - consider work, armed forces, charity, Girl/Boy Scouts, helping others)

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. Read John 15:18

If the world hates you, keep in mind it hated me first.

John 16:33

In this world you will have trouble.

Why do you think it is God's plan for Christians to face opposition and not have a carefree life?

2. Read Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

How have you, or someone you know, received strength from the Lord in the face of hardship?

How is this an encouragement to you?

3. Read Hebrews 12:2

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.

Why do you think Jesus attitude was one of joy when He knew the pain He was going to endure?

How does your mission affect your joy?

4. Read Philippians 3:8

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Paul talks about knowing Christ as more important than anything else in his life. How do you think this single-minded focus on this mission affected the joy in his life?

How would this mindset affect your mission and joy in your life?

5. Read Matthew 5:16

In the same way, **let your light shine** before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

What is meant by having your light shine?

What would be some good examples of this?

Why would this result in praise to God?

6. Read Revelation 3: 15, 16

¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Why do you think God wants us passionate for Him?

What are some problems with trying to be a part-time Christian who is just like those in the culture?

7. Read John 14:21

Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.

Why is obedience to God related to love?

What are some examples of being obedient?

8. Read Philippians 1: 20

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Paul was definitely focused on his mission and did not let distractions get in his way.

What things can we do so we don't become distracted from our mission?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory Philippians 3:8

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Decide that we are going to choose to be hot, to be sold out and totally obedient to Christ in this world. In order to do that, we must be spending time with God's word, so we will know how to be obedient.

// Prayer _____

**Pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith.
Pray that we would be passionate for God.**