



MIDDLE
SCHOOL
MINISTRY

BOLD

Week 3/4: Bold Joy
April 25, 2021



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to understand that joy is more of a choice than a feeling. It's an attitude that we can have in any situation or circumstance.

SCRIPTURE

Phil 2:17-18; 3:1 & 4:4 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

We live in a culture that shouts happiness is the goal, from “they lived happily ever after” to “happy meals,” shouldn't we be happy all the time? Then we read Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 4: “Everything on earth has its own time and its own season....for crying and laughing, weeping and dancing...” The truth is happiness is wonderful, but it isn't a permanent state we can be in all the time. Joy however, when we have joy in the Lord – that can be a permanent foundation in our life, though it doesn't always have the positive emotions all the time. This can be a hard concept for your students, who are in a concrete phase of thinking, to understand. **How can you find joy when you aren't in a happy situation? Think how you would personally answer this and be ready to share your answer with your group** to help model for them what it means to live today's main point out in real life.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Bold joy is a choice in any situation--whether it's good or bad.

GET THEM TALKING

If you had \$150 to spend, what would purchase to make you happy?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Now, if you never had that money to spend, or ever got the things you listed, would you consider that 'joyful'?
2. What is the difference between happiness and joy?

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:17-18 & discuss the following:

3. In your own words, what is Paul really asking the people of Philippi to do here?
4. What was Paul's attitude towards everything that was happening to him?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:1 & 4:4; Discuss the following:

5. What are the exceptions where we are told we don't have to rejoice?
6. Why is it difficult to experience joy in any situation?
7. What is **bold** about this kind of joy?
8. How can we start to shift our attitudes and mindsets to experience joy on a daily basis?
9. How can we find joy when you aren't in a happy situation? (*Leaders, be ready to give your answer with a personal story from your life – bonus points if it's from your teenage years.*)

NEXT STEP & PRAYER GUIDE

Invite your students to pray for one another to find and embrace joy. Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw the close during difficult times and allow you all to experience the joy that He brings.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2:17-18 (NLT)

“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸ Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:1 (NLT)

“Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 (NLT)

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”