Joy in the Journey:  A Study of Philippians
November 2, 2014

Dear Small Group Leaders, so glad that you are following along with the sermon series!  I think this is the best way for you all to get the most out of the sermons. As always, I will give you more material that you probably can get through. Sort through it and see what might best bless your group. Regardless, please read the Scriptures and use the questions that are in bold that are designed to help you go deeper in community. You all are my heroes! Small group leaders are the backbone of our church! --Pastor Mark

Read Phil 4:10-13
Paul says that he has learned the secret to contentment in any and every situation. What is the secret? How does Christ enable us to have strength in every and any situation? What do you think Paul means by having “learned” this secret? Can we likewise learn this secret? How?

Why is Jesus Christ the only true source of real joy? Why is it that even good things—like our relationship with our spouse—can’t truly serve as our source of joy?

Kay Warren defines joy as: “The settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.” What’s the difference between joy and happiness?

Where are you in your learning of the secret of joy?

Read Phil 1:9-11
Paul prays that the believers in Philippi would abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight…through Jesus Christ. What does this mean? Pastor Mark said, stupid joy brackets out reality, but a Christian joy bracket’s reality in. What did he mean by that?

Why is it important to think about these things? How are those thoughts connected to our joy?

What’s one area of your life, or circumstance, that often steals your joy—that’s difficult for you to bracket in?

Read Romans 8:28
What does this verse mean? How is this verse critical to having Christian joy? Has there ever been a circumstance where you thought, “How in the world can you ever bring about good in this Lord?” What was it? Have you seen yet how God brought about anything good?

Read Phil 1:21
What did Paul mean when he said this? Can you say this with Paul? Would others say that you live for Christ? Your co-workers? Your family?

Have each person pray for the joy of the person on their right—to have joy in the midst of their circumstances.