



Sermon Discussion Guide

August 30 - Pastor Scott Allen

Community: Deepening Joy (Psalm 16)

Discussion Starter

- Do you tell people when they have food in their teeth? Why or why not?
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Reflection Questions

- Share a moment in your life when being in community with other believers brought you deep joy. (*Bonus points if it was in our home group!*) Why did it make you happy?
 - To paraphrase Dietrich Bonhoeffer, has God in his grace ever “shattered your wish dream” of what church should be? How did you deal with that disappointment?
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Application Questions

- Vision Question: Read Fellowship’s vision statement: *We are a family of disciples on mission*. Read Galatians 6:1. Why is gently correcting our brothers and sisters toward the path of life necessary for discipleship and accomplishing our mission?
- (Personal implications) Ponder: Is there a sin in my life that I am attempting to cover because of shame and fear of man? Do I have someone I can share it with honestly? Ask: How can confessing sins with a trusted believer help in overcoming sin? *See James 5:16.*
- (Communal implications) Sometimes, when considering church community and giftings, we can believe one of two lies: either “I’m not needed” or “I don’t need them.” Consider

which side you might veer towards. How can believing these lies hinder the growth of the church and your own spiritual walk?

- (Missional implications) How would being a church that loves and serves one another, despite our differences, be a light and witness to the world?

This week's guide written by: Anna Koke

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"