

Community Group Questions (John 17:13-18)

1. Read John 17:13-18. What encouraged or challenged you from this week's passage and message?
2. Jesus prays that His disciples might be filled with joy.
 - a. How does the forgiveness you have received ignite joy in you?
 - b. How does the idea that obedience is actually for your joy (not restriction) challenge popular conceptions about God's commands?
 - c. How would you describe the difference between the temporary thrill of sin and the deeper joy of obedience? (see Hebrews 11:24-26 for some help)
3. Jesus calls us into transformational apprenticeship
 - a. Why is sanctification rooted in God's Word? (v.17)
 - b. What worldly narrative has had the strongest influence on your thinking and what truth of Scripture confronts it?
 - c. Can you think of a time when Scripture cut you open in a way that led to a real change in behavior, relationships or priorities?
4. Jesus calls us to an adventurous mission
 - a. Jesus explicitly prays that we would not be taken out of the world. Where do you personally tend to withdraw from the world rather than engage it?
 - b. Why do you think it can be hard to strike a balance between being "in the world," but "not of the world? (v.18)
 - c. Read Matthew 4:18-22. Pastor Lee has said before that we can't separate the call to follow Jesus from the call to mission. In what ways has the church fallen into that dichotomy at times?
 - d. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What might it look like in our lives to consciously connect the ideas that we have been reconciled to God and entrusted with the ministry and message of reconciliation?
5. Spend some time praying for those in your sphere of influence that you might have an opportunity to share the good news of the gospel