

SERMON: The Joy of Knowing Christ
SERIES: Philipians: Living In Joy
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

May 6, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 3:1-11.

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The joy of the Lord.
- II. The joylessness of the self.
- III. The joy of knowing Christ.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Are you starting to find your joy in the Lord? Can you think of an example from this past week where you experienced the joy of the Lord, or you rejoiced in the Lord?
2. Review Philippians 3:4-6. What could Paul boast in from a human point of view? What things might be on your list? Can you identify anything in your life that you are not willing to lose for Christ?
3. Re-read Philippians 3:10. Paul makes knowing Christ our greatest goal and our greatest good. Do you desire to know Christ? What things do you do to know him better? (Remember: this is not knowing about Christ, this is knowing him relationally and experientially).
4. How does Paul's description of his life in 3:8-11 line up with his description of Christ's life in 2:5-11 (Think about loss, suffering, death, resurrection, and glorification)? What is the implication of this for your life? Does this change how you see the story of your life- How?
5. In verse 10 Paul says that he wants to share in Christ's suffering. What do you think about that statement? How does suffering allow us to know/experience Christ? When you face suffering is your desire to get out of it, or to know Christ more?
6. In verse 10 Paul says he wants to become like Christ in his death. What does that mean? Use these scriptures to help you: Luke 9:23-27; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:17; 1 John 3:16; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:24; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. How does resurrection power give us the ability to live this life of sacrifice for others?

Pray: Praise God joyfully for his acceptance of you. Confess any ways that you have put your confidence in yourself rather than in Christ. Ask God to empower the cruciform life in you by his resurrection power.