March Madness

James 1:1-8

When things get hard

Week 4

Sermon in a Sentence: True Joy can only be found in Jesus

Intro: Hey Students welcome to the 3rd Quarter of March Madness! In the 3rd Quarter is when things get hard! Just like life! Sometimes things feel like a grind. When we encounter those days we must remember the joy that we can find in Jesus.

**James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.  Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.  If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.  But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.  That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.  Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:1-8 NIV**

**“Happiness is based on external circumstances, but joy is based on an eternal reality”**

* Happiness = temporary, Good hair day, didn’t fail a test, made a great tackle at practice, Had some coffee
* Joy = Eternal, No matter what Jesus is in control and my eternity is secure
* Happiness is Junior Varsity and Joy is Varsity

1. **Everything we do, we do because we think it will make us happy.**

* The people you date
* The tattoo you have
* The music you listen to
* The reason you are here
* We are searching

1. **Things that weren’t meant to be your God make terrible gods.**

* Doing good/religion “Paul says I count it all as loss”
* You can find happiness but not joy
* It has no power to sustain you
* It creates a cycle of unfulfillment
* They cant carry you through difficulty

1. **True joy can only be found in Jesus**

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10**

* We can have joy in the difficult times, because of what He did on the cross
* We can have joy because HE was stolen, killed and destroyed on our behalf!
* Trials will come but they become a mechanism to growing our faith
* Give me Jesus

**Gospel Presentation**

**Week 4 - March Madness**

**LIFE/INTRO QUESTIONS (CHOOSE 1 OR 2)**

* **What was your favorite part tonight?**
* **What is the difference between Joy and Happiness?**

**CONNECTION QUESTION**

* **Why do you think it is important to allow God to be the source of our Joy?**

**Sermon in a Sentence**

* True Joy can only be found in Jesus

**SCRIPTURE**

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* What does it look like to “count it all joy?”
* In what ways this week can we live out this verse?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* What can happen if we DON’T live in joy and only happiness?
* What are the barriers that stand in the way of you living out true joy?
* What can you do this week to break down those barriers?

**LIFE APPLICATION**

We want students to walk away with 1 or 2 things they are going to do SOON to apply what they discussed.

* Challenge your students to write out the things that can become false gods in their lives and how they will remove them this week.

**TAKE IT OUT**

* Close small group out with prayer requests.
* After prayer, remind them of THE WEEKEND and any upcoming group events!