



MAD NESS

GROUP DISCUSSION

LETTER FROM PASTOR

Dear FPC Family,

I am so thrilled that it is time for our first alignment of 2016. As many of you know, an alignment is when we coordinate our group lessons with our sermon topics from the weekend. We prayerfully choose these topics to impact all of us, no matter where we are in life.

This sermon series, *Madness*, focuses on our emotions and understanding how to place them under our Lord's control. Emotions aren't necessarily a good or bad thing. Emotions are given to us by God to enjoy life. We can enjoy them or let them enslave us. We can ignore them and pretend they aren't there or learn to control them— not let them control us— by submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Emotions clue us in to what is really going on deep down, like a window to our hearts. What really matters is how we respond to them.

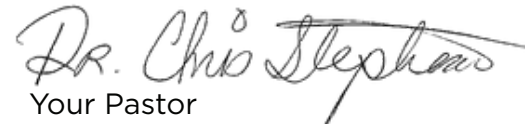
In this study we will look at four main areas of emotions. The first is the emotions surrounding our core memories. We all have memories that shape who we are. Some are bad memories from our past that God wants to transform as we become new creations in Christ. Second is anger. Sometimes anger isn't a bad thing— even our Savior felt anger. However, how we react when we experience anger is crucial. The third is fear. Fear paralyzes us and keeps us from moving along the path God has laid out for us. Remember, fear is the opposite of FAITH! God wants us to walk in a spirit of boldness so that we can achieve our full potential for Him. Last is joy. Joy is a vital fruit of the Spirit

which shouldn't be determined by our circumstances, but by our attitude. As John Maxwell says, "We choose what attitudes we have right now. And it's a continuing choice." I choose JOY!

WOW! I can't wait to see what God will do in our worship services and in our groups as we look at God's Word together, really digging into this study as we strive to follow Jesus' example regarding our emotions. Together we will learn to master our emotions and walk in victory. I believe we will never be the same!

We love all of you and pray for you daily!

Love,


Your Pastor

WELCOME TO MADNESS

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Hi Faith Promise! As you go through the curriculum remember that it is a guide. As you prepare to lead each week, tailor the questions to fit your group. If you find a question that won't connect with your group, don't ask it! If you can think of a better question for your group, change it! If your group responds in an unexpected but honest way, go with it. Leave room for the Holy Spirit to work in your meeting and be sensitive to where the Spirit leads.

A typical week in the *Madness* curriculum will include the following elements:

GETTING STARTED

We want your group to be a welcoming environment to group members and guests. Each week we ask that you would start your group in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. In the Getting Started section, you will also find a reminder about your group covenant. As you discuss the delicate subjects that will likely come up during this alignment, we want everyone to know they are in a safe environment.

FAITH PRINCIPLE

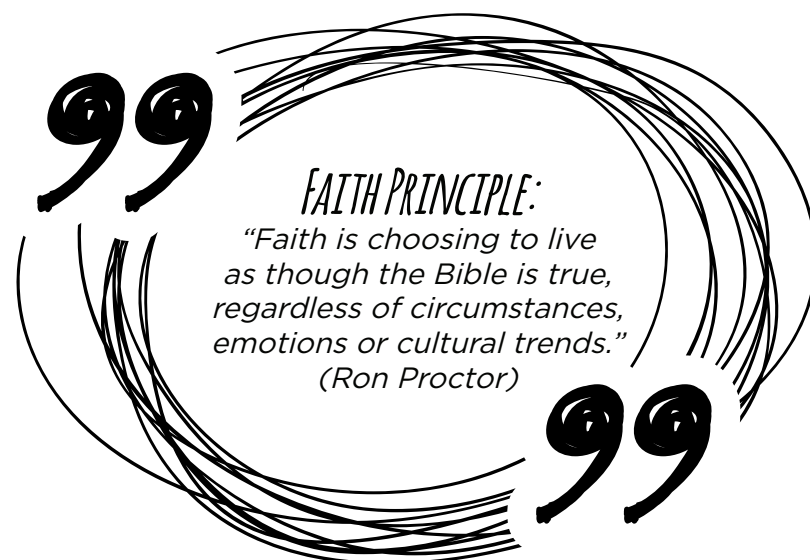
In 1999, Ron Proctor introduced me to the Faith Principle. The Holy Spirit has used this principle to help me overcome temptation and to live in the destiny God has for

me. I believe he will do the same for you as you apply this principle to your life.

Let's live by faith!



Kyle Wall



- 2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
- Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please Him..."
- Hebrews 10:38 "But My righteous one shall live by faith..."

APPLICATION QUESTION:

As I live by faith in the Word of God this week, in what ways will I live differently?

Each week we will ask that your group recite the Faith Principle together. We want this to become a guiding principle for your life. At the end of each session, discuss the application question together. Share your answers among the group and hold each other accountable during the week. When you come back together, share with one another how your life looks different as a result.

ICEBREAKER AND INTRODUCTION

Groups that feel robotic and cold don't last very long. We want your group to be a warm and fun-filled place. The icebreakers included in *Madness* are designed to help you make this a reality. In the introduction, you will encounter the main subject of the week for the first time. Encourage someone from your group to read it out loud.

VIDEO AND ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

A video teaching from Pastor Kyle Wall accompanies the study each week. Pastor Kyle brings years of pastoral and personal experience to illuminate Scripture in an easy to understand way. Passages of Scripture and discussion questions follow each week's video. These tools are designed to help your group dig deeper and open up about their own experiences.

EMBRACE OTHERS

Sharing what is going on in your lives is a vital part of a healthy and growing group. Share your prayer requests and victories with one another, writing them down and remembering them during the week. Follow up each week so you can see how God is moving among your group.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Groups at Faith Promise aren't about meeting once a week for a couple hours. Groups are where faith comes alive as we grow relationally with God and others. To help you grow your relationship with God, we've included daily devotional passages. Use the Discovery Bible Study method every day to better understand the passage of Scripture.

LEADERS' GUIDE

As a leader, we want you to be as prepared as possible. With that in mind, we've included a Leaders' Guide at the end of each week. This guide will help you formulate answers to guide the discussion. Remember, as a leader your primary job isn't information transfer, but spiritual transformation. Don't see yourself as a teacher, but as a facilitator. Creating an environment where your group can openly and honestly discuss Scripture is more important than transferring a ton of information.

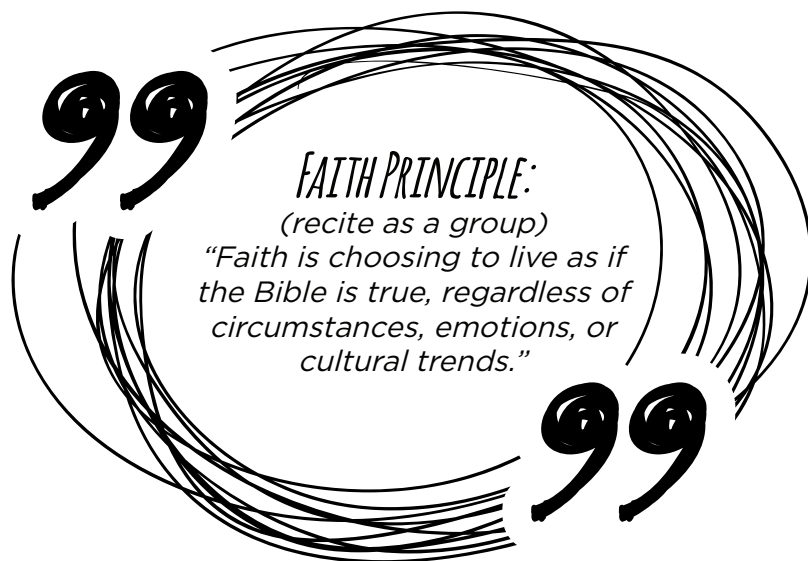
LAUNCH PARTY

WEEK 1

GETTING STARTED

The first week of *Madness* is a social gathering. Whether you share a meal, have a cookout, or host a game night, what's most important is that you get to know each other on a deeper level. Building relationships is essential to having a positive group experience.

WATCH THE WEEK 1 VIDEO NOW.



APPLICATION QUESTION:

As I live by faith in the Word of God this week, in what ways will I live differently?

GROUP COVENANT

As your group discusses emotions, it is important to create an environment where everyone can be raw and real. This can be challenging, especially for new groups. Agreeing on some ground rules will help make everyone more comfortable. To help your group begin to create an atmosphere of trust, fill out and agree upon the group covenant. Download a copy at: <http://faithpromise.org/series/madness>

HAVE FUN

At Faith Promise, we believe groups should be fun. Whatever your group does for fun, do it this week! Below are some suggestions, particularly for new groups.

Two Truths and a Lie – Ask everyone to come up with three things about themselves that no one in the group knows. Two of these things are true and one is a lie. Go around the group one by one and share all three things. After each person shares, vote on which thing you think is the lie.

Never Have I Ever – Give each person 5 emoji cards (or any other object). Go around the room and take turns saying, “Never have I ever _____.” Whatever you say has to be something you actually have never done. Every person who has done it must give up one of his or her emoji cards. The last person that still has an emoji card wins!

Tell Me About When – Mix up the emoji cards and put them in a stack face down. Go around the room and one by one pick an emoji card out of the pile. Each person should share one time when he or she felt the emotion that is expressed on the emoji card.

Seven Word Biographies – Go around the room and have everybody share their life stories...in seven words. Give everyone a few minutes to come up with his or her biography. For example, Pastor Chris' biography might be: Drugs, Jesus, radically changed, Michele, Faith Promise.

Who Am I? – Give everybody in the room an index (or emoji) card, and tell them to write down three things about themselves no one in the group knows. Collect the cards and read each card out loud. As you read the cards, have each person write down whose card he or she thinks it is. Whoever gets the most people right wins.

Who is This? – Write down everyone's name on separate strips of paper and place the names in a bowl. Make sure everyone knows each other's name or is wearing a nametag. Have everyone pick a name out of the bowl and get a blank sheet of paper. Once everyone has a name, have everyone draw the person that they picked. When everyone has finished drawing, go around the room and try to guess who each person drew.

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by asking God to bring about life change in your group during the *Madness* alignment. Share some prayer requests and victories God has given you this week.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Each week during the alignment you will find daily devotionals at the end of the study. As you study each passage of Scripture, please use the Discovery Bible Study method, described below. This method of study will help illuminate the meaning of Scripture and how your actions should change as a result. This method can also be used as a group to study a particular passage of the Bible.

PRAYER

Begin your devotional time by going to God in prayer. Share with God at least one thing you are thankful for and one thing that is causing you anxiety or fear. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you study God's Word. Pray for illumination of meaning and guidance on how you should live as a result of your study.

SCRIPTURE

As you approach the passage of Scripture, try reading it in multiple ways. First, read the passage as you normally would. Then, try reading the passage to yourself out loud. After reading the passage, use your Bible app or something similar to listen to the passage being read aloud as you follow along. Finally, summarize the passage in your own words. You may also find it helpful to read the passage in more than one translation.

DISCOVERY STUDY

After thoroughly reading the passage, you are now ready to begin to study the passage more in depth. Asking questions is a great way to wrestle with the meaning of Scrip-

ture. Questions facilitate the discovery process. Below are some sample questions to encourage interaction with Scripture. These questions will be provided each day of the devotional.

- Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
- What did you like about this passage?
- Did anything bother you? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about Man?
- What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

COMMITMENT

Knowledge of God's Word must translate into obedience or it is wasted. This next step begins with a statement and a question:

"Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?"

As you close out your devotional time, answer this question for yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you exactly how you should respond to the passage you read. If you already obey this Scripture, write down how you obey it. Is there anything else you need to do to increase your obedience to God's Word in this area of your life? Keep this part of your time focused on specifics. For example, realizing that there is only one God is awesome, but how does that lead to action? Now that you believe there is one God, what do you need to change in your life? What will you do differently?



Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Philippians 4:4-9

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Titus 3:1-7

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 6:1-7

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

LEADERS' GUIDE

Welcome, leaders! Thank you so much for your commitment to Faith Promise and God's Kingdom. We are so excited about what God is going to do in your group during *Madness*.

This first week of *Madness* we want you to focus on creating a vibrant social atmosphere for your group. Many of you will be anxious to jump into the study, but taking the time to invest in the relationships within your group is vital to group health.

As you begin to prepare for this first meeting, spend time in prayer asking God to create a warm and welcoming environment. Ask God to help your group connect relationally to one another.

If this is a brand new group, or if you have new people coming to your group for the first time, send out an email before the meeting confirming the time and date of the group gathering. Include directions to your home and let them know how long group will last and what they can expect.

On the day of the meeting you want to ensure you've created an environment where people can connect. For this first week, we suggest having a dinner, cookout, or game night so everyone can get to know each other. Make sure you have enough drinks and snacks if you aren't having a meal. For this first week, you may want to take the lead on refreshments, but be sure to share this responsibility as the group continues on.

During this first meeting, there are four things that are essential. First, watch the Week 1 video that introduces the alignment. Second, introduce the Faith Principle and Application Question that will be used each week of the study. Third, walk through the Group Covenant. Fourth, have fun!

Week 1 Video

Before the group begins, take time to watch the week 1 video on your own. This week, Pastor Chris will introduce the alignment and our new global groups pastor, Kyle Wall. This video will give the group an idea of what's in store during the rest of the alignment.

Faith Principle and Application Question

Each week during *Madness* the Faith Principle will be a guiding factor in your discussion. Spend some time getting to know the Faith Principle. Spend some time this first meeting discussing the principle. Ask people what they think about it and if it changes the way they think about faith. This principle would be a great discussion topic as you are sharing a meal. Also spend some time talking about the Application Question. Each week during *Madness*, the Encounter God portion of the night will close out with this question. We hope you will spend time each week communicating about how you are applying the truth of this study in your everyday lives. For more about the Faith Principle, see page 4.

Group Covenant

The group covenant is an important part of any small group. This covenant sets expectations for each group member as to what to expect and what is expected of them. During *Madness* we want your group to begin to get raw and real with each other. Openness and authenticity comes with risk. By agreeing on and committing to this group covenant, your group can be a safe place to share openly and honestly. Each week before getting into the

study you can remind your group of the key commitments you've made to each other through the covenant. (See faithpromise.org/series/madness.)

Have Fun

For some of you, this will be the easiest part! For others, particularly new groups, you may feel a little overwhelmed. Just in case, we've provided a handful of get-to-know-you games that can be used by new or existing groups to facilitate discussion and hopefully lead to laughter. Playing a classic game, such as Charades, Pictionary, Taboo, or Catchphrase is a great way help get people's guards down. Don't overthink it.

Emoji Cards

We've created a sheet of emojis cards for you to print off and use during the Madness alignment. These can be used as cards for games, icebreakers, or whatever else you may come up with! You can find the emoji cards at <http://faithpromise.org/series/madness>.

CORE MEMORIES

WEEK TWO

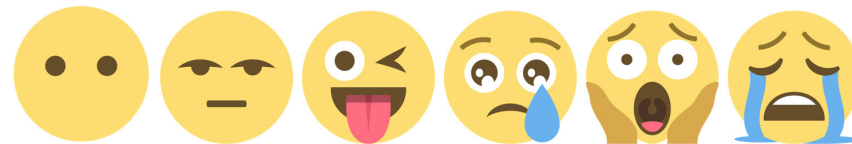
GETTING STARTED

Begin your group with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to invade your group and for God to remind everyone of their new identity in Christ.

If you have anyone new this week, take a moment to welcome him or her.

Remember your group covenant. Remind everyone that this is a safe environment where emotions can be expressed in healthy ways and transparency is embraced. Everything said in the group stays confidential in the group.

ICEBREAKER



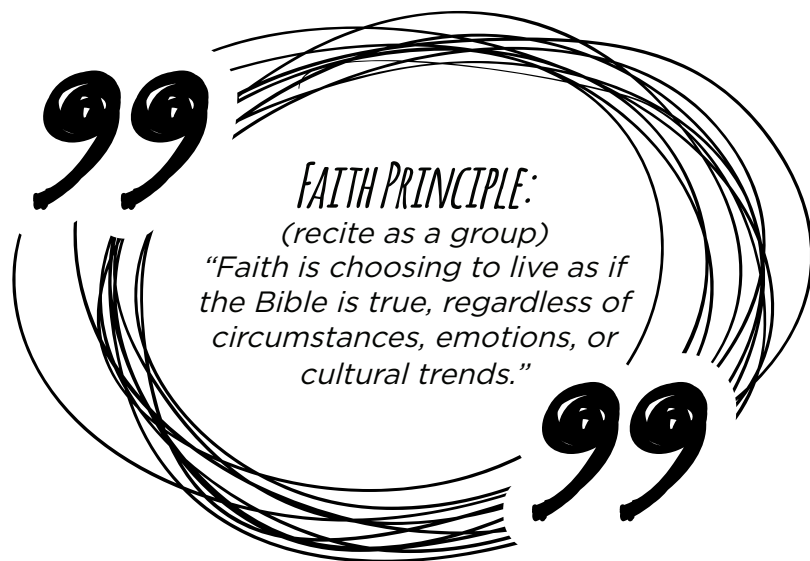
Circle where you fall on the feeling scale:

- 0 - I have one of those. One feeling.
- 2 - No, that's just something in my eye.
- 4 - I only feel when Tennessee loses. I feel a lot more lately.
- 6 - I'm like East Tennessee weather; my feelings are constantly changing.
- 8 - It's like I'm constantly in the student section of the national championship game.
- 10 - I'm like a teenage girl watching The Notebook.

INTRODUCTION

What we believe about ourselves matters. Our identity and self-worth influences every aspect of our lives, from how we interact with others to what we do when no one else is looking. Core memories, which are deeply influential memories from our past, play a huge role in shaping that identity. If our core memories are largely positive, then our identity will be largely positive. If they are negative, so is our self-worth.

Take Naomi for instance. We first meet Naomi in the book of Ruth at her worst moment. She just buried her two sons after having already lost her husband years before. She returns home and asks that no one call her Naomi anymore, which means beautiful. Instead she wants to be known as Mara, which means bitter. In that moment her identity and self-worth were fundamentally shifted.



Maybe you're at a similar point in your own story. Your past is defining your reality and how you look at the world. But does it have to? It didn't for Naomi. Through her daughter-in-law, Ruth, Naomi was given a grandson named Obed who was a "restorer of life" to her. Obed later had a grandson, David, who became the king of Israel.

Maybe our past doesn't have to determine our future. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, new things have come." What if our self-worth came from who we are in Christ, not what we have done in the past? What if we allowed God to transform our identity? What might that look like?

WATCH THE WEEK 2 VIDEO NOW.

ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Read Acts 9:1-22

1. What kind of life did Saul live before encountering Jesus?
2. What do you think some of Saul's core memories may have been like? How do you think those memories influenced the life he lived before Christ?
3. In v.18 it says, "something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again." How do you think this physical action matched Saul's spiritual reality?

4. What moments from your past influenced who you became in a negative way?
5. Acts 9 describes an incredibly influential moment for Paul that shapes the rest of his life. What is your most influential core memory that has shaped who you are in Christ?
6. Each of us has memories made in Christ as well as memories that were made apart from Christ. How have you found that those memories compete to form your identity and self-worth?

Just as Jesus removed the scales from Saul's eyes, God wants us to begin to see ourselves more clearly. However, we can't see clearly if we continue to look through the lens of our past hurts and failures. As a new creation in Christ, your identity shouldn't be wrapped up in your job, your relationships, or your behaviors. Your identity is based completely on who Jesus is, not on what you can do. You're probably thinking, "That sounds great right now. But in two days when I'm surrounded by the muck of this world, that isn't so easy." Thankfully Paul recognized how difficult it can be to walk in our new identity. Let's see what he has to say about remaining focused on Christ in the midst of our everyday lives.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24

7. How does Paul describe the mindset of those apart from Christ in verses 17-19? Why does Paul say their thinking is futile?
8. What does Paul say we should do with our old way of thinking?
9. Our Groups Pastor, Kyle Wall, said that by nature our minds are self-worshipping. Why is a self-worshipping mind so dangerous?

10. How does Paul say we can break out of the futility of a self-worshipping mindset in verses 23-24?
11. How can we renew our minds? How do we train our minds to live in the truth that we are new creations?
12. What lies have you continued to believe about yourself despite the reality that you are a new creation in Christ?
13. What truth about your identity in Christ do you need to be reminded of this week?

As a group, spend some time praying for the Holy Spirit to remind each of you who you are in Christ this week.

APPLICATION QUESTION:

As I live by faith in the Word of God this week, in what ways will I live differently?

“As our minds are renewed, we are transformed from the inside out.”
—Kyle Wall

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by sharing prayer requests and victories God has given you this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Remember to use the Discovery Bible Study methods described on p. 12.



Read Psalm 4:1-8

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”—2 Corinthians 5:17



Read Luke 10:17-20

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Galatians 5:16-21

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 12:9-13

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 12:14-21

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Psalm 51:7-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

LEADERS GUIDE | WEEK 2: CORE MEMORIES

As you prepare, remember this is a guide. You know your group better than anyone. You know what questions will work for your group and which questions will fall flat. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you prepare. Skip questions that won't work in your group and feel the freedom to add questions of your own. Completing the lesson isn't the goal, life change is.

Read Acts 9:1-22

1. What kind of life did Saul live before encountering Jesus? Saul was, more than anything else, a religious person. Saul was trained as a Pharisee and regularly displayed his incredible knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. This training formed deeply rooted beliefs about God and others. Those beliefs led to Saul becoming a persecutor of Christ followers, approving the death of those who threatened to overturn the Jewish belief system. Saul wasn't a hypocritical Pharisee, such as those Jesus repeatedly rebuked. Instead, Saul's knowledge of Scripture and zeal for God caused him to miss the truth about Jesus. For more about Saul's life before Christ see Philippians 3:4-6 and Galatians 1:13-14.

2. What do you think some of Saul's core memories may have been like? How do you think those memories influenced the life he lived before Christ? Feel free to engage in some "spiritual speculation" as you discuss this question. Certainly among the most influential would have been the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:54-8:1 and his teaching at the feet of Gamaliel mentioned in Acts 22:3. Gamaliel was a renowned teacher and Pharisee. As a Pharisee, Saul would have been taught that the law is to be treasured above all else. It is no wonder then that Saul responded so strongly to Christians who were seemingly disregarding the law.

3. In v.18 it says, "something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again." How do you think this physical action matched Saul's spiritual reality? Saul experienced in this moment the physical reality of regaining his sight. However more significant, this moment represents Saul seeing clearly for the first time. Saul's spiritual blindness had been overcome. The scales of his past actions, his present beliefs, and his powerful doubts, were all removed in a moment of spiritual revelation.

Questions 4-5 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experience.

6. Each of us have memories made in Christ as well as memories that were made apart from Christ. How have you found that those memories compete to form your identity and self-worth? These two realities are constantly battling in the mind of the believer. Am I everything the world says I am? Am I the sum of my past experiences and decisions? Or is my identity and self-worth found in Christ? While we will likely never fully extinguish this battle in this life, part of sanctification is continuing to embrace the truth about ourselves in light of Christ.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24

7. How does Paul describe the mindset of those apart from Christ in verses 17-19? Why does Paul say their thinking is futile? Paul is clear; those apart from Christ are futile in their thinking. They can't think, feel, or believe clearly because their mind and soul are fallen. Sin has affected every aspect of creation, including our ability to reason and feel. In Paul's time, just as today, those who reject Christ often consider themselves enlightened. Instead of being enlightened, Paul explains these people are stuck in darkness. They are ignorant, not necessarily of the things of this world, but ignorant of the spiritual reality all around them. Just as Saul was blind spiritually, so too are those apart from Christ today.

8. What does Paul say we should do with our old way of thinking? Verse 22 explains that we should take off this old way of thinking. Our old self has been crucified with Christ. As new creations in Christ, we should embrace a new way of thinking.

9. Pastor Kyle Wall said that by nature our minds are self-worshipping. Why is a self-worshipping mind so dangerous? A self-worshipping mind will always come to one conclusion, that their answer is the correct one. This way of thinking never allows us to recognize our weakness as fallen creatures. A self-worshipping mindset will never be able to live out the faith principle. Instead it will always choose its own fallen desires above the instruction of Scripture.

10. How does Paul say we can break out of the futility of a self-worshipping mindset in verses 23-24? Paul explains that the only way to break out of this mindset is by renewing our minds. As we renew our minds, we will naturally put on our new self and the actions that come with it.

11. How can we renew our minds? How do we train our minds to live in the truth that we are new creations? Pastor Kyle explained this as a double action of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. First the Holy Spirit must work outside in: through the truth of Christ. We must be consistently exposed to the truth of Christ. Read God's Word. Listen to scripture, sermons, and music that teach the truth of Christ. Read great books about the lives of men and women who have been transformed by Jesus. Meditate on Scripture. The second action of the Holy Spirit must be inside out: through truth embracing humility. As the truth of Jesus penetrates our heart, we must embrace through humility that God's truth is better than our truth. To make this a reality, we need to continually pray for a truth embracing humility in our hearts.

Questions 12-13 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experience.

Each week encourage everyone to share his or her answer to the application question. Ask everyone to write his or her answer down and next week share how you lived that out.

ANGER

WEEK 3

GETTING STARTED

Begin your group with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to invade your group and for God to open up everyone's heart to what He wants to do in their lives.

If you have any newcomers this week, take a moment to welcome them.

Remember your group covenant. Remind everyone that this is a safe environment where emotions can be expressed in healthy ways and that transparency is embraced. Everything said in the group stays confidential in the group.

FAITH PRINCIPLE:

(recite as a group)

"Faith is choosing to live as if the Bible is true, regardless of circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends."

ICEBREAKER

Anger Scale



- 0 - Peyton just won the Super Bowl
- 2 - You just pulled up to Chick-fil-A on a Sunday
- 4 - The dog just peed on the carpet
- 6 - The person in front of you has 40 items in the 10 items or less line
- 8 - The Patriots just won the Super Bowl
- 10 - Customer support just hung up on you after 2 hours on hold

Share where you fall on the anger scale:

- When someone drives 10 miles under the speed limit on a one-lane road.
- When your boss asks you to stay late for the 3rd time this week.
- When the video you are trying to watch keeps buffering.
- When that guy behind you keeps talking during the movie.
- When your cable bill magically increases by \$10 again this month.
- When someone puts the empty container back in the refrigerator.

Before jumping into the lesson, discuss how you each did at living out the application question this week. How well did you live by faith this week? What areas of your life look different as a result?

INTRODUCTION

Emotions can take us all over the place. From the heights and ecstasy of young love to the depths and despair of new loss. It's no wonder so many of us try to hide or avoid our emotions altogether. The last thing we want is to be labeled as emotional. Take Bob, for example. "Bob gets angry every day. Bob was filled with deep regret. Bob's love lasts forever. Bob was jealous, because she chose someone else." Clearly, Bob is an emotional guy.

But what if being emotional isn't such a bad thing? Would it surprise you to find out that those quotes about Bob are actually Old Testament descriptions of the emotions of God? It seems clear that the God of the Bible is an emotional God. If God feels emotions, maybe emotions aren't the problem.

Emotions clue us in to what's happening in our world, sort of like indicator lights on a car dashboard. Take anger, for instance. Anger tends to show up when we feel like we've been violated or hurt in some way. When someone breaks a promise you feel anger because your agreement has been violated. When God blesses someone else but doesn't bless you in the same way, you feel unhealthy anger. This is because you perceive this as a violation, even when it isn't.

There is nothing inherently wrong with feeling anger. It is an appropriate response when you feel violated. In Ephesians 4:26 Paul says, "Be angry, and yet do not sin." How you respond to that feeling is where people often get in trouble. Is the violation real or perceived? Do you hold onto it and let it grow? Do you react in fits of rage? What if, instead of reacting to your anger, you respond to what is really behind it? What would that look like?

WATCH THE WEEK 3 VIDEO NOW.

ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Read Matthew 5:21-24

1. What does Jesus equate with anger in this passage? Why do you think Jesus views this kind of anger so seriously?
2. Pastor Kyle Wall explained that Jesus is addressing unrighteous anger that has taken root in the heart of the believer. Why is failing to deal with the root of our anger so devastating?
3. What is the difference between a real violation and a perceived violation? How can you tell the difference?
4. What are the improper responses to anger mentioned in verse 22? What are some other sinful responses to anger?
5. How should we respond to feeling anger towards another Christ-follower? How can dealing with the root of your anger begin to diffuse the situation?

The natural response to being hurt is to hurt someone back. After all, they just violated our rights! Thankfully this isn't how God responded to His righteous anger towards us. Jesus gave up his rights, taking our place as the recipient of God's wrath so that we might be forgiven. The natural response to anger is to repay evil with evil. But God hasn't called us to live natural lives.

Read Ephesians 4:31-5:2

6. What kinds of situations tend to cause anger to swell up inside of you?
7. Why should Christ-followers be quick to forgive those who have offended them?
8. Why do you think it is so easy to continue holding a grudge? What makes this seem so satisfying in the moment?
9. What tends to happen if you let bitterness take root in your heart? Why does it turn out to be so unsatisfying in the long run?
10. What are the four steps Pastor Kyle mentioned for dealing with anger and bitterness in your heart?
11. Which one of these steps is the most difficult for you to live out?
12. Is there a hurt or violation that you are still holding onto?

Take a few minutes to pray for each violation that members of the group are holding onto. Ask the Holy Spirit to release each person from the bonds of bitterness.

APPLICATION QUESTION:

As I live by faith in the Word of God this week, in what ways will I live differently?

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by sharing prayer requests and victories that God has given you this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Remember to use the Discovery Bible Study methods described on p. 12.



Read 1 Peter 2:21-24

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“The people who have been walking with Christ the longest should be the most grace-filled and loving people in all the world.” —Kyle Wall



Read Ephesians 4:25-27

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read James 1:19-21

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Proverbs 15:1, 29:22

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Hebrews 12:14-15

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

***"If not careful, we can begin to excuse
what's going on in our inside world
because of what we are doing on the
outside." —Kyle Wall***



Read Matthew 12:33-37

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Colossians 3:1-8

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“The word repentance means to change the way you’ve been thinking. Begin to align your thoughts with God’s thoughts.” —Kyle Wall

LEADERS' GUIDE | WEEK 3

As you prepare, remember this is a guide. You know your group better than anyone else. You know what questions will work for your group and which questions will fall flat. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you prepare. Skip questions that won't work in your group and feel the freedom to add questions of your own. Completing the lesson isn't the goal, life change is.

Read Matthew 5:21-24

1. What does Jesus equate with anger in this passage? Why do you think Jesus views this kind of anger so seri-

ously? Jesus equates holding hate in your heart with murder. While Jesus isn't saying that the consequences of anger in this life are the same as murder, Jesus is saying both carry eternal judgment. Jesus wants people to see that the condition of their hearts is vitally important. Holding onto anger is so devastating because it usually brings with it the desire to hurt others. Killing is such a serious offense because it involves destroying something made in the image of God. Hurting and insulting others also brings damage to those who are created in God's image.

2. Pastor Kyle Wall explained that Jesus is addressing unrighteous anger that has taken root in the heart of the believer. Why is failing to deal with the root of our anger so devastating? If we don't deal with the root of our anger it will continue to come back time and time again. Simply ignoring the cause of our anger allows frustration to bubble just below the surface. This allows anger to begin working its way into every aspect of our lives. Before long anger has taken control. Jesus stresses that dealing with the issue quickly and directly is the best way to keep anger from taking root.

3. What is the difference between a real violation and a perceived violation? How can you tell the difference? Anger is often the response to a violation or a perceived violation. A violation happens when there is an agreement in place that one party has failed to uphold. This could be a social or legal agreement, such as the agreement not to steal from your neighbor. A perceived violation tends to happen when there is confusion about what agreement is in place, or if there is any agreement at all. Following a conversation with your spouse, you may believe your spouse agreed to mow the lawn every Saturday. However, your spouse believes he or she has agreed to mow every two weeks. This miscommunication can lead to a perceived violation. Getting to the root of the miscommunication can quickly diffuse the situation.

4. What are the improper responses to anger mentioned in verse 22? What are some other sinful responses to anger? Jesus specifically mentions insults as a devastating response to anger. It's important to remember as we talk about others that they are created in the image of God. Gossip, slander, fits of rage, and physical confrontation are all responses to anger that are discouraged throughout the Bible.

5. How should we respond to feeling anger towards another Christ-follower? How can dealing with the root of your anger begin to diffuse the situation? In verses 23-24 Jesus explains the direct route is the best one. Go directly to the other person involved and discuss what happened and why it hurt you. Most people don't intentionally hurt others. Going directly to the other person and getting everything out on the table opens the door to finding a solution.

Read Ephesians 4:31-5:2

Question 6 is meant to be an application question and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

7. Why should Christ-followers be quick to forgive those who have offended them? Simply put, we should forgive others because we have been forgiven. Each follower of Christ has been forgiven time and time again for our trespasses against a perfect and holy God. Knowing firsthand the value of forgiveness should in turn make us quick to forgive others.

Questions 8-9 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

10. What are the four steps Pastor Kyle mentioned for dealing with anger and bitterness in your heart? First, repent of what is in your heart. To repent means to change the way you have been thinking. Begin to align your thoughts with God's thoughts. The fruit of repentance will follow. Second, ask God to forgive you and to purify your heart. Claim 1 John 1:9, that God is faithful to forgive when we confess our sins. Third, if possible, make amends to the person whom you have offended or who has offended you. Do your part in humility and trust the results to God. Fourth, live in the victory that Jesus has secured for you! You are loved and as a result, you can love.

Questions 11-12 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

“You are loved, and as a result, you can also love others.” —Kyle Wall

FEAR

WEEK 4

GETTING STARTED

Begin your group with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to invade your group and for God to open up everyone's hearts to what He wants to do in their lives.

If you have any newcomers this week, take a moment to welcome them.

Remember your group covenant. Remind everyone that this is a safe environment where emotions can be expressed in healthy ways and transparency is embraced. Everything said in the group stays confidential in the group.

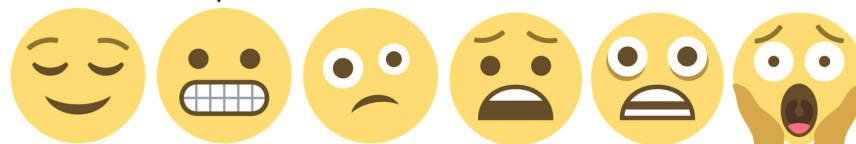
FAITH PRINCIPLE:

(recite as a group)

"Faith is choosing to live as if the Bible is true, regardless of circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends."

ICEBREAKER

Fear Scale



- 0 - Sleeping safely in bed
- 2 - It's been 5 minutes and no one has liked your post
- 4 - The stock market just fell 10%
- 6 - Looking down from the top of the Empire State building
- 8 - You're about to give a major presentation
- 10 - You showed up for work/school naked

Share where you fall on the fear scale:

- When you show up at the dentist.
- When you see a 10-foot snake.
- When you're waiting on the doctor's report.
- When you're driving through a snowstorm.
- When you show up to a new small group for the first time.
- When you see police lights in the rear view mirror.

Before jumping into the lesson, discuss how you each did at living out the application question this week. How well did you live by faith this week? What areas of your life look different as a result?

INTRODUCTION

Fear. We've all felt it. Fear can be devastating and debilitating. When we are overcome with fear, we can't move. Kids are terrified because of the boogie monster waiting in the closet. Teenagers change everything about themselves because of the fear of what others think. As we get older the list gets longer and longer. Do I have enough money to pay my bills this month? When will everyone at work realize I have no idea what I'm doing? Am I messing up my kids? Does my spouse still love me? Am I inadequate?

Fear can be a good thing. It's a signal that something is risky or dangerous. Healthy fear warns us something might not be safe. It keeps us out of trouble. Unfortunately, because of sin, fear has become a weapon used against us. Unhealthy fear keeps us from walking by faith.

Through the Holy Spirit, God has called us to walk in faith, not fear. In 2 Timothy 1:7 Paul puts it like this, "God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." For most believers, walking in this power is little more than a fairy tale. They think God could never do anything great through them. At Faith Promise, we believe God has called us to something greater. To walk in faith, not fear. What would happen if everyone at Faith Promise stopped living in fear and started walking in the power of the Holy Spirit? What would that look like?

WATCH THE WEEK 4 VIDEO NOW.

ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Read Genesis 3:8-10

1. Why were Adam and Eve afraid of God? What did they do as a result of this fear?
2. What did Adam and Eve miss out on because of this fear?
3. Pastor Kyle mentioned that their fear turned into shame. How is shame a result of fear? Why do you think fear turns into shame?
4. How has shame been a "life-stealing trap" in your life? How has shame kept you from doing something you wanted or needed to do in the past?
5. What is the difference between a healthy fear of God and an unhealthy fear of God?

Fear and shame are powerful. Unhealthy fear keeps you from becoming everything God wants you to be. Shame says God won't forgive you because you aren't good enough. It makes us believe we have to start doing a little better before we can turn to God. This way of thinking couldn't be further from the truth. God chose you — not because you are awesome, sinless, or have it all together. God chose you because of who He is, not because of who you are.

Learning to embrace this truth can set you free from the constant fear that you aren't good enough. The truth is, you aren't good enough. Praise God that Jesus chose you anyway! God wants to do incredible things through you. Will you stop being paralyzed by fear and trust that when you are weak, God is strong?

Read Isaiah 41:8-10

6. Do you believe that God chose you? How does that make you feel about your flaws and shortcomings?
7. Why does this passage explain that Israel and Jacob should be fearless? How does this truth apply to your life?
8. Have unhealthy fear and shame ever kept you from seeking forgiveness from God? How has shame kept you from extending forgiveness to others?
9. What fears keep you from living the life God has called you to live?
10. Is there any debilitating shame in your life that you need to bring to light?

Take a few minutes to pray for God to overcome fear and shame in each of your lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in freedom this week.

APPLICATION QUESTION:

*As I live by faith in the Word of
God this week, in what ways will
I live differently?*

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by sharing prayer requests and victories that God has given you this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Remember to use the Discovery Bible Study methods described on p. 12.



Read Proverbs 9:10, 28:1

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“Unhealthy fear can cause us to run from God, to run from His love, to run from His security for our lives.” – Kyle Wall



Read Isaiah 41:11-16

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 2 Timothy 1:6-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 1 John 4:13-21

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 1:16-17

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 8:12-17

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Matthew 10:26-33

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“Unhealthy fear will keep you from living out your destiny.” —Kyle Wall

LEADERS' GUIDE | WEEK 4

As you prepare, remember this is a guide. You know your group better than anyone else. You know what questions will work for your group and which questions will fall flat. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you prepare. Skip questions that won't work in your group and feel the freedom to add questions of your own. Completing the lesson isn't the goal, life change is.

Read Genesis 3:8-10

1. Why were Adam and Eve afraid of God? What did they do as a result of this fear? Adam and Eve were afraid because they had sinned against God. They disobeyed the one instruction God had given them. This fear turned to

shame as they recognized both their failure and their nakedness. Their fear caused them to run and hide from God, disrupting their relationship. Just like Adam and Eve, our fear and shame cause division in our relationship with God.

2. What did Adam and Eve miss out on because of this fear?

Adam and Eve missed out on the pure relationship they had with God before their sin. Instead of going directly to God and asking for forgiveness, Adam and Eve hid. If God hadn't continued to seek them out, who knows how long they would have missed out on their relationship with God. We know that God is just and faithful to forgive us, however when we fail to repent and return to God, our relationship remains shattered.

3. Pastor Kyle Wall mentioned that their fear turned into shame. How is shame a result of fear? Why do you think fear turns into shame? Shame tends to be the result of being afraid of what someone will think, whether that is friends, family, or God. When someone becomes afraid of an interaction, they tend to hide in shame so that confrontation won't take place.

Question 4 is meant to be an application question and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

5. What is the difference between a healthy fear of God and an unhealthy fear of God? A healthy fear of God, often referred to as reverence, comes from recognizing who God is. We serve a God of terrifying power, who at any moment could destroy us with a single word. Reverence is sometimes described as a terrible storm that has arisen out of nowhere. If you were caught in the storm, then you would be fearful for your life. However, if you were quickly able to find refuge from the storm, your fear would change. Instead of being afraid for your life, you might get a thrill out of watching the storm. You would respect the power of the

storm even as you sought out safety. Jesus is our refuge in the storm. Even though Jesus has saved us from the fury and wrath of God, we should still respect His power. An unhealthy fear of God fails to recognize Jesus' salvific power in our lives. Instead of embracing God's grace, it tells us to hide in fear and shame because we aren't good enough. An unhealthy fear of God fails to recognize that we don't have to be perfect, because Jesus was perfect for us.

Read Isaiah 41:8-10

Question 6 is meant to be an application question and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

7. Why does this passage explain that Israel and Jacob should be fearless? How does this truth apply to your life?

This passage outlines four reasons why Israel and Jacob shouldn't be afraid: God is with them, God will give them strength, God will help them, and God will uphold them. Basically, they shouldn't be afraid because God will take care of their every need. The same is true for us. As children of God, we are heirs to His promises. God has promised that we don't need to worry about anything, because he will provide for our every need (Matthew 6:25-34). God doesn't want us to do anything in our own power; instead God wants us to have faith that He will work through us.

Questions 8-10 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” —John 8:36

JOY WEEK 5

GETTING STARTED

Begin your group with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to invade your group and for God to open up everyone's hearts to what He wants to do in their lives.

If you have any newcomers this week, take a moment to welcome them.

Remember your group covenant. Remind everyone that this is a safe environment where emotions can be expressed in healthy ways and transparency is embraced. Everything said in the group stays confidential in the group.

FAITH PRINCIPLE:

(recite as a group)

"Faith is choosing to live as if the Bible is true, regardless of circumstances, emotions, or cultural trends."

ICEBREAKER

Joy Scale



- 0 - Monday at 8:00am
- 2 - 20 likes on your post
- 4 - Friday at 5:00pm
- 6 - Holding 10 puppies
- 8 - Bacon
- 10 - Wedding Day

Share where you fall on the joy scale:

- When UT wins the National Championship.
- When you're laying on the beach.
- When you realize it's a baptism weekend at FP.
- When the police let you off with a warning.
- When you're holding a newborn baby.
- When your children give their lives to Christ.

Before jumping into the lesson, discuss how you each did at living out the application question this week. How well did you live by faith this week? What areas of your life look different as a result?

INTRODUCTION

We live in a broken and fallen world. Our airwaves are filled with conflict, fear, and hate. Domestic violence, murder,

war, and economic downturn dominate the news cycle. Thankfully, joyful Christ-followers are changing the dialogue, bringing hope to our broken world. Or at least they should be. Unfortunately, far too many Christians are just like their lost neighbors, joyless and hurting.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. As Pastor Chris often says, it's standard equipment for believers. If that is true, why does joy seem so fleeting? Perhaps it's because so many look for joy in all the wrong places. Stuff can't satisfy our ever-changing desires. No person, no matter how great, can perfectly fill our need for relationship. Jesus said the things of this world won't last, so, why do so many believe that the joy they provide will?

When joy is determined by circumstances, it is here today and gone tomorrow. God doesn't want our joy to be fleeting; He wants it to be eternal. What if our joy weren't found in the temporary things of this world? What if we found a source of eternal joy despite our circumstances? What could our lives look like then?

WATCH THE WEEK 5 VIDEO NOW.

ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Read John 15:1-11

1. What does it mean to abide in Jesus? Why does abiding in Jesus produce fruit?

2. How does bearing fruit bring glory to God (v.8)?

3. Do you believe that abiding in Christ leads to joy (v.11)? Why? How does bringing glory to God lead to joy?

4. What makes it difficult for you to continually abide in Christ?

Joy comes when we stop fighting God and embrace His purpose for our lives. The Westminster Shorter Catechism describes our purpose like this: "Man's primary purpose is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." When we bring God glory our lives are filled with joy. The inverse is true as well. When we enjoy God, we can't help but bring Him glory.

When we recognize and walk in this purpose, our circumstances lose the power to determine our attitude. Instead, they become an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Jesus. God wants to use every circumstance in your life to grow your faith and increase your joy. The question is, will you join the Holy Spirit in this process?

Read James 1:2-4

5. Have you ever faced a trial that caused you to stop abiding in Christ?

6. What kind of emotions do trials normally lead to in your life?

7. How can you be joyful in the midst of trials? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this process?

8. Why do you think God uses difficult circumstances to grow our faith?

9. Pastor Kyle mentioned that we should resist the desire

to escape our trials unless the Holy Spirit leads us. How can you begin to embrace the trials you face?

10. Do you think being joyful is a choice? What keeps you from choosing joy?

11. How can you choose joy in the midst of your current circumstances?

Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to fill everyone in your group. Pray for everyone to join in the work of the Holy Spirit so that his or her heart will be filled with joy.

APPLICATION QUESTION:
As I live by faith in the Word of God this week, in what ways will I live differently?

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by sharing prayer requests and victories that God has given you this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Remember to use the Discovery Bible Study methods described on p. 12.



Read Galatians 5:22-26

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

"In all of our circumstances, the Holy Spirit can produce an inward joy in our lives." —Kyle Wall



Read Nehemiah 8:9-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Philippians 4:4-7

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Psalm 16:7-11

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

“The Holy Spirit wants to work in our lives to produce joy” —Kyle Wall



Read Acts 5:33-42

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

LEADERS' GUIDE | WEEK 5

As you prepare, remember this is a guide. You know your group better than anyone else. You know what questions will work for your group and which questions will fall flat. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you prepare. Skip questions that won't work in your group and feel the freedom to add questions of your own. Completing the lesson isn't the goal, life change is.

Read John 15:1-11

1. What does it mean to abide in Jesus? Why does abiding in Jesus produce fruit? Abiding in Christ describes a continual relationship with Jesus. A continual relationship with Jesus means trusting his direction, communication through prayer, and perhaps most important, obedience to his teachings. This relationship naturally produces joy in the life of the believer. Abiding in Christ naturally produces fruit because it requires reliance on the Holy Spirit and obedience to Jesus' teaching.

2. How does bearing fruit bring glory to God (v.8)? As Jesus explains in Matthew 5:16, when others see your fruit they will recognize how awesome God is. Your fruit is a testimony about who God is and how impactful a relationship with Him can be.

3. Do you believe abiding in Christ leads to joy (v.11)? Why? How does bringing glory to God lead to joy? As our Creator, God knows what will bring us fulfillment and joy. God is relational, existing in an eternal relationship between the Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit. Since God created us in His image, we are relational beings. The only thing that will ultimately fulfill our deepest desires is a relationship with our Creator. God also created us for a purpose, namely to demonstrate His glory. Since we were created to demonstrate God's glory, our joy can't be complete unless we are living out that purpose.

Questions 4-6 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

7. How can you be joyful in the midst of trials? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this process? Pastor Kyle mentioned two keys to remaining joyful in the midst of various trials. First, we have to trust God. If we trust that God knows what is best for us and is with us in the midst of our trials, we will have faith that it will ultimately be for our good. God promises that our present sufferings are nothing compared to the future glory we will experience in Christ (Romans 8:18-31). It was this faith that sustained Paul and other believers who faced persecution on a daily basis. Second, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be consistently reminded of these truths. Remember, joy isn't merely an emotion we feel, but a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

8. Why do you think God uses difficult circumstances to grow our faith? When God brings us through difficult circumstances, it builds our confidence that He will do it again. Growth requires stretching and discomfort. God often takes us out of our comfort zones to grow our reliance on Him. If you never had to rely on God for anything, you would foolishly believe you could save yourself. Thankfully, God never sends us into trials alone. The Holy Spirit is always there to guide us through our trials. As we rely on this guidance, the Holy Spirit is able to conform us more and more to the image of Christ.

Questions 9-11 are meant to be application questions and will allow your group to share openly about their own experiences.

CELEBRATION

WEEK 6

GETTING STARTED

The last week of *Madness* is a social gathering. Whether you share a meal, have a cookout, or host a game night, what's most important is that you celebrate what God has done in your group.

If applicable to your group setting, take some time as you eat or hang out to discuss what you have learned in the *Madness* series. Discussing principles and saying them out loud to friends in the community helps to cement them in your heart.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Spend some time discussing what's next for your group. What are you going to study next? How can you serve together as a group? Who do you know that needs to experience the community that you've experienced through *Madness*?

EMBRACE OTHERS

Close out your time together by thanking God for everything He has done during *Madness*. Share the victories that God has given your group.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read 1 John 4:7-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Romans 8:26-30

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Zephaniah 3:12-17

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Matthew 5:2-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?



Read Psalm 30:1-12

Did anything in this passage capture your attention?

What did you like about this passage?

Did anything bother you? Why?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about Man?

What does this passage tell us about living to please God?

Since I believe God's Word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?

LEADERS' GUIDE

Congratulations, you made it! During the final week of *Madness*, we want your group to celebrate everything that God has done through this study. As you begin to plan a social night to celebrate, this is a great opportunity to share leadership. Ask someone in your group with leadership potential to take the lead this week. Help them plan something fun to do and communicate with the rest of the group.

What's Next?

Spend some time this week discussing what the next steps are for your group. Are you ready to start a new study? What does the group want to learn more about? Have you considered serving together as a group? Who do you know that needs to experience the community your group has created? As you pray and talk about what's next, remember your coach is always there to help. They can give you guidance on Bible studies, serving, or anything else you have questions about.

Thank you so much for your leadership and commitment to shepherd the people of Faith Promise. We pray for you daily!

—fpGroups Team



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