



Pastor David Kim

pt. 3: Joy

Icebreaker: There's a saying "Familiarity breeds numbness." Can you think of something you truly found joy in when you first experienced it, or obtained it, or received it, but you now have become numb to it? In fact, you find it rather mundane, and it has become routine. Please share with your group.

1. Paul David Tripp writes in his devotional, "Often when we become familiar with things, we begin to take them for granted. When we are familiar with things, we tend to quit examining them. Often when we are familiar with things, we quit noticing them. When we are familiar with things, we tend not to celebrate them as we once did. Familiarity tends to rob us of our wonder. And here's what's important about this: what has captured the wonder of our hearts will control the way we live." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. What is the difference between biblical joy and happiness? Is there a difference?
3. **Read Luke 2: 8-11 as a group.** Why was Jesus being born such great news as the angel proclaims in this passage? In other words what does Jesus' arrival mean for you and the world?
4. When was the last time you truly felt the joy of knowing Jesus and the joy of your salvation? If you don't know this Jesus, what is stopping you from taking that step of faith?
5. What are some practical steps you can take today to reclaim the joy of your faith amongst the busyness of the holiday season? Share as a group and give each other some examples to implement.

Closing Word of Encouragement:

What is familiar often grows cold and numb in our hearts. But the most familiar story is the most amazing, joy filled, life giving story ever told. May the wonder and the joy of our salvation return to us in a powerful way this Christmas. May Jesus whom we seek together reveal Himself to be the source of our greatest joy. And as your heart is captured by the wonder of who He is and why He came, may He be the one who most controls the way you live. Joy is chosen, but it is also a gift and may this joy be God's gift to you.