

Small Group Notes based on The Joy of the Lord: 3.

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- We are on part 3 of our series based on **Nehemiah 8:10**.
- Four goals for this series:
 - 1: Permission. I want you to have permission to seek fullness of joy as part of your calling in Christ.
 - 2: Wisdom. I want you to know what this joy is and not be pulled in by counterfeits.
 - 3: Access. I want you to actually get it. Oh to have this!
 - 4: Strength. For you, me, us, the Body of Christ. Imagine what this would do for marriages...for families...for witnessing...for churches...
- Of these four goals, which do you think would be the most difficult?
- The history of Israel maps onto our individual lives amazingly well! How do getting out of Egypt and conquering giants symbolically apply to our lives?
- Getting out of slavery.
 - What did Jesus come to save us from? **Matthew 1:21**
 - Sin: to miss the mark with the implication of not sharing in the prize.
 - Slaves to sin. Read **Romans 6:4-18**.
 - The promise of God is clearly that we be delivered from bondage to sin.
 - Discuss the 3 ways Pastor Mike said we are set free from sin:
 - Our past sins. How do we get set free from this?
 - But Romans 6 is clearly talking about our future sins. **Romans 6:18**
 - We are set free from our future sins. What would it mean for you to be set free from your future sins? What would that mean for those close to you?
 - How do we get free from this?
 - One more: sins committed against us and those we love.
 - This can be a powerful bondage. Don't underestimate it.
 - How do we get free from this?
 - This isn't just bondage, it is also damage.
 - How is forgiveness related to this? Healing? Mind renewal?
- Conquering giants.
 - What is the difference between getting free from slavery vs. conquering giants?
 - Some stuff you have to go get. **2 Peter 1:5-8**
 - "Make every effort" means you have to go get it. How do you go get that?
 - What has God called you to? You will have to fight to get there.
 - What are the giants in your life?
 - Discuss the idea of being a forgiven slave (stuck in the failure forgiveness loop) and being a forgiven coward (someone who didn't take on their giants).
 - What is that life like? Have you lived in either of these realities?
 - The good news is that Jesus wants us in the Promised Land!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!