



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on December 11, 2021.

Please Take Note: This is the last House Church guide until January.

Sermon: Advent Joy
Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Take some time to worship
(Something a little different this time):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdAVKI-xLxA>

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker Question:

Christmas time is here and with it are all the parties and get togethers. Which one of these is closest to you:

- 1. At the party are you the one who is talking with the most people possible?**
- 2. Are you the one who is sitting on the couch talking with one or two people?**
- 3. Or are you the one who is at the back of the room, not talking and just soaking in the whole scene?**

Question #1: Joy is the theme for the third week of Advent. Can you think back when you were about 10? What was Christmas like for you? Was it joyful?

Additional Question: In 1 Thess. 5:16 God tells us to 'be joyful always.' How do you feel when you hear this?

Question #2: So we are told by God that we are to be joyful always. Why do you think He would tell us that?

Additional Question: We know that we struggle in life and don't always feel joyful. How do you think we might be able to be more joyful? Does Jesus make this really possible?

Question #3: If you look over 1 Thess. 5:12-24 you will notice that it talks about peace (and conflict), people who are lazy, people who try to do wrong things to each other, living in and among lots of different kinds of evil, etc. By the way this is being addressed to the church!

Additional Question: If my identity is in Jesus and He has overcome the world, then how might that affect how I face my current struggles?

It seems there a lot of *worldliness* in and among us! Read John 16:33 and talk about what Jesus is offering to us in the midst of all this.

Question #4: Joy is possible in this messed up world because we are in Jesus; Jesus has overcome this world; and His joy is my joy.

Additional Question: Read 2 Corinthians 9:8. Does this have anything to say to us about living in the joy of Jesus?

If this is all true, and I still experience sorrow, hurt, hopelessness, anger etc., then what might be in the way of our ability to *experience* His joy?

Question #5: We probably all have ideas of what this 'joy' thing in Jesus looks like. Some might think it's silly or embarrassing. Some might think it's frivolous. And some might think "I really want that!" No matter where you are at, God believes it is important for each of His children to experience.

Read Romans 14:17 to get a sense of what living with Jesus is meant to look like. Then read Colossians 3:1-2 to get a sense of something you can do to increase in joy.

What good does it do to think about 'things above' instead of 'earthly things'? And how might this increase our joy?

Invitation and Mission for this week

This is the Christmas season. What can you and your House Church do to bring some Christmas joy to someone outside of your group?

Pray for each other