

DATE: August 13th, 2023

TITLE: For Your Joy: Assurance: So much More Than Praying a Prayer

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:6-12

SPEAKER: Ben Sepulveda

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: Share about a time when you had the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone else.

THINK BACK: Referring back to this week's sermon... What is the BIG IDEA of the Scripture AS IT WAS TAUGHT THIS WEEK? Was there anything that left you with questions?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Read 1 John 5:6-12**
- The "three witnesses" of v6-8 are the water, the blood and the Holy Spirit. They represent the historical (his baptism and his crucifixion) and spiritual evidence that Jesus is our Savior. Talk about the "evidence" in Scripture, from God, that assures us that Jesus is who He says He is. (Read Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:32-34, Matthew 27:45-54 and John 19:16-37 for more on water and the blood)
- In every believer, the Spirit convicted us of our sin, convinced us that Jesus is our salvation, and continues to "testify" to Jesus in our hearts. Why is it important that God continue to be the source of our confidence in Jesus?
- According to John and the words of our Lord, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and He brings to our mind the things that Jesus taught and did (John 14:26). How does the Spirit produce the words of Jesus in our minds and hearts? (Leader: The Word) Since it is through the Word, how are you committing yourself to knowing God's word?
- Read v10-12. Having the testimony of Christ in your heart produces life, both in life and eternally. How does knowing we will spend eternity with God change the way that we behave today? How does it change what we value?
- You are called to be a witness to the nations, serving as the way God is witnessing to the world. How are you presently carrying out that responsibility? How can you do that more effectively now, how would you like to in the future?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 3:13-17
- John 1:32-34
- Matthew 27:45-54
- John 19:16-37
- John 14:26
- John 16:7-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

APPLICATION

Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do? What's one thing from this text that you could say to an unbeliever about who God is?

PRAYER

Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text. Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

SHEPHERDING

Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

REMINDERS

Small Group Checklist

- Ask about ideas to serve in some way together. Serve 1x every six weeks or so.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!! One way to reach 'out' together is to welcome people 'in.'
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

Check the bulletin, monthly newsletter and events page on the website for ways that you can get plugged in, as well as events here at FCC. Here are a couple of those things:

-Our first Faith Training Class, "Jonah Was a Prophet", will be August 27th after 2nd service! Register online! Cost is \$10 to cover lunch expenses. Scholarships are available!

-All are invited to our back to school prayer walk. We will be gathering on Sunday, August 27th at the church at 6:30 to go and pray at our area schools before classes resume for the year.

-SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 17th will be our annual Ministry Fair as well as our next Cov't Meeting... The whole church is welcome to join us!