

Discussion Questions

Cultivating Fruit-filled Lives

1 Peter 1:3-9: Joy (Galatians 5:22)

As we seek to partner with the Spirit to make room for His fruit to grow, consider:

- How do you intentionally spend time with Jesus? Are there things you need to change to make more space for him?
- How easy do you find it to ‘enjoy the Lord’? Why is that or not?
- Who are some examples of people (including possibly yourself) who have suffered greatly and yet still showed joy in their faith – even if they died for it? Is there anything you can learn from their witness?

Additional Questions – choose 2-3 to further your thinking.

- What part of the sermon stood out as important to you this week? Why?
- In 1 Peter 1:3-5, we are told of four blessings God has given his people: new birth (v3a), living hope (v3b), an inheritance (v4), and shielded by God’s power (v5). To the best of your understanding, what do each of these four blessings mean?
- What are the things that guarantee we shall receive our inheritance (v4-5)?
- What connection can you see between the joy found in the blessings (v3-5) and having joy in trials (v6-8)?
- Thinking about past, present and future events described in this passage. How might they give perspective for our trials?
- In your experience, what ways have trials and temptations strengthened your faith?
- Meditate on Hebrews 12:2 and allow the full weight of the words to work in your heart.
- There is a famous ‘serenity prayer’ by American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, which says, *God grant me the serenity to **accept** the things I cannot change, **courage** to change the things I can, and **wisdom** to know the difference.* There are certain things in life that can never be changed. Read 1 Peter 5:6-7 and spend some time in prayer.
- Commit to spending some time each day to consider the little things that bring you joy. What are you taking for granted that you can easily give thanks for?
- As an extended study, Nehemiah 8:10 says, *The joy of the Lord is my strength.* Read Nehemiah 8:1-12 and consider what this statement means in the context of their situation. Does it change in the light of Jesus (see John 8:31-32, 2 Cor 7:10)? What does it mean to let *the Lord be your strength* and find joy in your life today?