



Discussion Prompts for 07/30/23

People of Perseverance – Philippians 3:7-14

An important note before you begin: These prompts are not meant to dictate what you discuss together. Instead, they're designed to inspire a free-flowing conversation. Never squelch the Holy Spirit by trying to get through all the questions. Read through a week's questions (there will be some weekly repeats) in advance and decide which ones might be best for your group, given their comfort level with each other.

Getting Started:

1. What do you remember from the sermon this past week?
2. How might your group describe the main idea of the message in just a couple of sentences?

Getting Specific:

1. Can you describe a time in your life where suffering has sapped your joy?
2. In that time, was suffering exclusive from Joy, or did the two co-exist?
3. What do you think about the following quote?
 - a. *"Joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering, with tears in its eyes."* - Frederick Buechner

Going Deeper Together:

1. Philippians 3:7 talks about the many things Paul counted as Loss. There are some pretty significant things on that list described in v. 5-6. So an important question is what aspects of your life would be hard to put in the category of “Loss” compared to the “surpassing worth of knowing Jesus”
 - a. As you answer, remember, Paul is not saying those things are of no worth, but rather their worth pales in comparison to the worth of Christ.
2. If, like Paul, you “count everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.” What will that do for the stalwart nature of your joy?

Going to Scripture:

1. If you haven't been doing so already, take some time this next week to read all four chapters of Philippians and reflect on the theme of joy presented throughout.
 - a. In what context does Paul call for Joy?
 - b. How does he encourage others towards joy?
 - c. What do you see as the hurdles to joy?

Going Forward:

1. What have you discovered about life with God this week?
 2. How is this good for your neighbors, Westminster, or the world?
 3. In light of your discussion today, what are some implications for you or your group?
 4. How/when will you act on those implications (be careful not to skip these questions or take on too much)
-

Worship all week:

Joy/Full Playlists – [itunes](#) | Spotify

Joy/Full: **Joy in the People of God** – [1000 tongues - Vertical Worship](#)

Joy/Full: **Joy in Purpose** – [For me to live is Christ](#) – Sidewalk Prophets

Joy/Full: **Joy in Humility** – [My Worth Is Not In What I Own](#) – Graham Kendrick

Joy/Full: **Joy in Jesus** – [What a beautiful name it is](#) – Borroke Ligerwood

Joy/Full: **Joy in Mission** – [What a friend we have in Jesus](#) – Josh Garrles

Joy/Full; **Joy in Suffering** – [Lord from Sorrows Deep I call](#) – Matt Boswell