



ICE BREAKERS

- What in life brings you great happiness?
- What brings you joy?
- What is the difference between the two?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Read Philippians 3:1-3.**
- What does it mean to "rejoice in the Lord"?
- From where do we get joy?
- **Read Galatians 5:22.**
- Can life cause us to lose joy? Share a time.
- How do we keep our joy?
- **Read Philippians 3:1.**
- **NOTE:** It is saying joy is a "safeguard", an assurance that God loves me and is working in me. But did you ever think we have to guard or protect our joy?

Take this JOY SAFEGUARD Test:
(be honest and share your answers with the group)

- Are you in the WORD of God daily?
> We have a safeguard in the Word.

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Philippians 3:1-3

1 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.

3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.

Galatians 5:22

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,...

Colossians 3:1-3

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

- Are you in PRAYER daily?
> We have a safeguard in Prayer.
- Are you PRAISING daily?
> We have a safeguard in Praise.
- Are you FOCUSED daily?

- **Read Colossians 3:1-2.**

- What two things need to be focused? Why?
- Are you sanctified? Are you dying out to selfishness daily?

- **Read Colossians 3:3.**

- Why is sanctification (the indwelling of God's Spirit and cleansing of your sinful/selfish nature) important?

- **Read Philippians 3:2.**

- When you see a "beware of dog" sign, what do you think?
- **NOTE:** Paul is saying "Watch out, look out, be cautious because there are people out there that would like to chew you up and spit you out."



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Heritage Church Headquarters | 1350 North Court Street, Circleville, Ohio 43113

Hours of Operation: Tuesday - Friday 9AM-4PM

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

- Paul calls them 3 things:

1. DOGS

- Why would he call them dogs?
- He is addressing their CHARACTER!
- What did it say about their character?

2. EVIL

- Why would he call them evil?
- He is addressing their CONDUCT!
- What does this say about their conduct?

3. MUTILATORS

- Why would he call them mutilators?
- He is addressing their CREED! (*What they believe and do to people*).
- What does this say about their creed?
- In verse 1, Paul says "Rejoice". In verse 2, he says "Watch out."
- Do we have to watch out for people who steal our joy.
- Are there people in your life that have the ability to steal away your joy? In what ways?

“



Watch their:

CHARACTER!

CONDUCT!

CREED!

- How can an **unbeliever** steal away our joy?
- Can **believers** steal away our joy? (Hint: It was believers for Paul).
- Can **you** steal away your joy? Can you be the reason you lose joy?
- **NOTE:** You can lose your joy when you allow anything to come between Jesus and you!
- Have you ever let little things bother you? Give an example.
- Have you ever lost perspective or focus? Give an example.
- Have you ever not trusted or believed people? Give an example.
- **Anything that comes between Jesus and you can cause you to lose joy!**

APPLICATION

- Identify anything or anyone that could cause you to lose joy!
- Write these things down and...
 1. Be aware of these things.
 2. Pray for these people or things that cause you to lose joy.
 3. Keep your focus on what really matters...**JESUS!**



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