

The Transforming Friendship

The Discipline of Celebration – 1 Peter 1:3-9

Discussion Points

April 12, 2020

Read/Reflect

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 aloud to recognize the meaning of the passage; in silence let each person savor what they have heard, and then identify a word or a phrase that stands out. Let someone read the passage a second time; ask “What gift does this passage lead me to ask from the Lord?”, or “What does this passage call me to do?”
2. Compare 1 Peter 1:6-7 with passages like James 1:2-3; Romans 5:3-5; Philippians 4:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Colossians 1:24; and 1 Peter 4:13. What kind of general observations do you make about joy and the Christian life?

Explore

3. What kinds of things do you typically celebrate? How do you typically celebrate? What is the most unusual celebration you have had?
4. Evaluate this definition of the discipline of celebration: *Utter delight and joy in ourselves, our life, and our world as a result of our faith and confidence in God’s greatness, beauty, and goodness.*
5. How do you practice celebrating the salvation you have received through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What keeps you from celebrating God and his presence?
6. How has celebrating Easter this year been different than other years?
7. How would you define complete joy according to Jesus’ words, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete” (John 15:11)?

Pray

- Pray Psalm 30 or Psalm 100 by making it a personal commitment (e.g.: I will shout for joy to the Lord, I will worship the Lord with gladness, I will come before him with joyful songs. . .etc.)
- Pray this Celtic Prayer of Joy or your version of it:

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned me for joy. Share with me the vision that finds that joy everywhere: in the wild violet’s beauty, in the lark’s melody, in the face of a steadfast man, in a child’s smile, in a mother’s love, in the purity of Jesus.

