



Breadcrumbs...
finding your way back

CURRENT POINT SERIES
#BREADCRUMBS **MC³**



Discussion
Gu'de

"FINDING JOY"

02/14/16

THE POINT:

WORSHIP IS THE WAY BACK TO JOY

Discussion Generators

Don't forget to make announcements to your group!

- ➔ It's been a while since we've done this, go around your group and share your God Moments from the past few weeks (God Moments are how you have seen God working, either in your life, or in the life of another).
- Be looking for how you see God working, so that you have something to share next time.
- What has stood out to you so far from the *Breadcrumbs* Point series?
- In the Point this week, we talked about how the closer you are to the presence of a heater, the more it changes you (warms you up). Do you have any stories of being around a fire or without heat some time?
- Read Psalm 16:1-11. As a group (those who were in the Point), summarize what the 3 parts of this Psalm teach about worship v. hard times [v.2-4: God is in Control; v.5-6: God Provides; v.7-11: God is Present]
- ➔ Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and James 1:2-3. What do both of these passages teach us about joy? Why is it unnatural to worship when we're suffering? Why is it a good thing to worship when we're suffering?

→Read Acts 16:22-24. Describe how you would feel (physically and emotionally) if you were Paul and Silas. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like everything was falling apart? What did Paul and Silas do? Read Acts 16:25.

→Read Hebrews 12:2. According to this verse *why* did Jesus endure the suffering of the cross? How does His example change our view on worship and joy during tough times?

•Read Nehemiah 8:8-10. In this passage the Jewish people had the laws of God read to them for the first time in almost a generation! When they heard it, they realized how far they had drifted from God. In this sadness, Nehemiah tells them “the Joy of the Lord is your strength”. What do you think this means?

→Read Psalm 16:11 *again*. Considering all that we’ve talked about today, how can God’s presence bring us joy?

→It’s time to be real—share with your group which one of the following three people do you *most* feel like right now?

- David in Psalm 16: In a hard spot, but simply worshipping in the joy that comes from God’s presence ?
- Paul & Silas in Acts 16: Needing to worship in the midst of tough circumstances that aren’t your “fault”?
- The Jewish People in Nehemiah 8: Feeling unworthy to worship because of their past mistakes?

After each person has shared, get into groups of 2-3 and pray for each other, that you may experience the joy of God’s presence.

Bible Verses

Psalm 16:1-11 (NLT)*selected verses, read full passage in Bible

...11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-3* read full passages in Bible

Acts 16:22-25 (NLT)

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIRV)

Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the author of faith. He also makes it perfect. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Nehemiah 8:8-10 (NLT)*selected verses, read full passage in Bible

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the lord your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the lord is your strength!".