

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Habits

ANCIENT PRACTICES FOR TODAY'S WORLD

OPENING UP



Are you familiar with celebration as a spiritual rhythm? If so, how have you practiced it?

TEXT



The Joy of Celebration | Luke 4:17-21

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Celebration is the exclamation point on the Christian life.

1. Reasons for celebration
2. Examples of celebration
3. A lifestyle of celebration

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- In today's passage, Jesus declares He has brought good news and proclaimed liberty to the captive and oppressed. How have you experienced His freedom in your life? How have you celebrated that freedom?
- Like the tax collector Levi, is Jesus' presence in your life enough of a reason for you to celebrate? Or have you become "used to" the Gospel? If the latter, what's a practical solution to the numbness of your heart toward Christ?
- **"The life of the Christian doesn't end with a question mark, as if we were always searching but never finding, as if we were in doubt of our ultimate purpose and destiny. Rather, an exclamation point is more fitting because sin has been conquered."**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Do you find yourself trapped under the burdens of worry, shame, questioning, and fear as if your sin has not already been conquered? What's holding you back from experiencing the freedom and joy available to you in Christ – to living with an exclamation point?

- Are you going through a trial that makes celebration seem impractical or even impossible? Consider these words from today's teaching: **"Jesus becomes poor, so that he may proclaim good news to the poor. He becomes captive and oppressed, so that he may declare liberty to us. Our striving can stop. Our restlessness can stop. We rest in the Word, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we celebrate our salvation, we're not denying the human plight; we're affirming the divine victory. A victory available to all who trust in Jesus."** Do you believe in the power of this victory despite the difficulties in your life? What does this mean for you today?

CHALLENGE



As we learned today, our Sunday gatherings are "the main event of celebration in the Christian church." Discuss how faithfully you worship with our church family each Sunday. Determine how you can encourage and hold one another accountable in this fundamental expression of celebration.

At the close of today's lesson, we were challenged to "find reasons to celebrate and celebrate often." Discuss as a Life Group how you can do just that, both as individuals and as a Group. Don't leave without determining 1-2 practical ways you will implement celebration as a spiritual rhythm in your life.

PRAYER



Lord, thank you for the gift of the spiritual rhythms you've imparted to your children. We praise you for the truth of your Word, which teaches us how to live with a spirit of celebration. Our prayer is that you would grant us the joy of the Lord as we look to the victory you won for us on the cross.

Jesus, help us to live in the freedom you've made available to us. We are no longer slaves to sin, destined for death! We pray you would encourage us daily that you have conquered shame and condemnation and have set us free to a life of purpose and hope.

Grant us the grace and the discipline to integrate celebration as a spiritual rhythm in our lives, that we would never tire of hearing and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. We believe that as we rest in your promises and praise your Name, you will fill our hearts to overflowing with gratitude and joy!