

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### 36 Re-Think of Gospel

#### INTRODUCTION | From Sorrow to Rejoicing

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In life we face unexpected troubles. In life, we cannot escape sadness. In close of the day we sigh in pain recognizing our lack of ability to do anything. In light of scripture, what does God say is our joy and hope? In times of sadness, how do we cope? On the night before Jesus' crucifixion Christ talked with His disciples. From this conversation we can learn the following; First, Although we cannot escape sadness and pain we cannot look to understand the deep significance of pain in light of Christ. Secondly, because Christ declares and accomplishes the gospel in the midst of real pain real joy can come about.

#### SCRIPTURE | John 16:20-33

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20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." 29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

#### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: (verse 20) Why did Jesus tell the disciples that the reality of suffering cannot be avoided? What kind of value does it have to accept and recognize sadness rather than denying it? (Reference: Good Grief)
- 2: (verse 21) Jesus discusses the pain of childbirth turning to joy. From this, what kind of hope is there in the midst of our experiences of suffering and pain?
- 3: According to the gospel of Christ, the pain of our lives will be joined to pain. Share any experiences you have of this (reference Romans 5:3-5)
- 4: (verses 22-23) Christ in recognizing that there is not in the midst of pain, places His emphasis on the joy that comes after pain. What is the basis for this emphasis on joy?
- 5: (verses 31-33) When one accepts the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ, how does this put an end to sadness and pain? If the gospel is not inserted, what kind of reaction to Jesus' teaching would be pointed to?
- 6: (verses 23-27) In the middle of our pain and sadness how do we appropriate the joy of victory? (reference: the sick man's prayer)

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### REFERENCES |

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#### Ten Stages of Grief

(1) Shock (2) Expression of emotion (3) Depression and isolation (4) physical symptoms (5) panic or anxiety (6) guilt (7) anger or resentment (8) resistance (9) hope (10) affirming reality

#### Romans 5:3-5

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

#### I asked God (A CREED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED)

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey...

I asked for health, that I might do greater things I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...

I asked for riches, that I might be happy I was given poverty, that I might be wise...

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...

I got nothing that I asked for -- but everything I had hoped for

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am among all men, most richly blessed!

### PRAYER |

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- God the Father loves us in the son. We are protected and preserved in the midst of sadness and pain. Not only this but victory and salvation are given so let us praise the Lord. We can praise the Lord that through suffering the cross he was raised to glory.
- Not believing or remembering the resurrection gospel leads to being captive to anger and self hatred. If you are in the midst of this kind of experience think on why this is the case and repent, turning to grace found in the resurrection.

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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- (1) Community group leaders meeting (11/2)
- (2) Lunchtime Meeting (11/4 Kasumigaseki, 11/5 otemachi)
- (3) Obento Project (11/7)
- (4) Worship Location (11/8 Hamacho F-tower)
- (5) Devotion Seminar (11/8)
- (6) Lunchtime Meeting (11/11 Marunouchi, 11/12 Otemachi)
- (7) Worship Location (11/15 Hamacho F-tower)
- (8) Devotion Seminar (11/15)
- (9) Tap Dance and organ event (11/15)