

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Origins

Week 5: Celebrating God's Faithfulness
Ezra 6:15-22

Week of September 4, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

After much difficulty and delay, the second temple in Jerusalem was finally finished. The celebration of the grand opening of that temple will teach us much about the joy of the Lord.

Kicking It Off: This week we studied the grand opening of the second temple in Jerusalem. Can you think of a time that you were at the grand opening of a new building? Tell the group about it.

Discussion:

1. Jeff argued that the "joy of the Lord" is better than: the joy of possessions, the joy of accomplishment, and the joy of experiences. Why is that true?
2. Reread Ezra 6:16 ***They celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy.***

Can you think of a time when you had great joy encountering the Lord at church? If so, tell the group about it.

3. Reread Psalm 63:2-3 ***"I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you."***

How do these verses guide us in our efforts to worship God?

4. Reread Ezra 6:22a ***They celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread.***

The Festival of Unleavened Bread was designed to help the people remember when God rescued the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. How can remembering this event bring us joy?

5. Reread Ezra 6:22b ***The Lord had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God.***

The exiles recognized that their good fortune was the work of God on their behalf. Can you think of any blessings that we fail to recognize are from the Lord?

6. In 1 Timothy 4:4, we are told that all of God's good gifts must be "received with thanksgiving". Why is it dangerous to enjoy God's gifts without giving him thanks?
7. Pastor John Piper is known for saying: "God is most glorified in you, when you are most satisfied in Him." If this is true, why?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God would give you the fortitude to persevere when obedience gets tough.