

MAIN POINT

The enemy comes to steal and kill our joy, but the Bible helps us navigate the schemes of the devil and find joy in Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

What gives you the most joy in life?

How would most of your friends answer this question?

God did not create a world and then haphazardly throw humans into the mix. Nor did He simply let it evolve (or devolve!). God crafted the world in such a way so as to maximize His glory and our good. In the very beginning, God set a fixed order to His creation, with cycles and seasons and hard-wired functions for everything. And when He did, He did not forget about us! On the contrary, as the crown of God's good creation, we find that God's design is for our greatest joy. The enemy comes to steal and kill our joy, but the Bible helps us navigate the schemes of the devil and find joy in Jesus.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 2:8-9, JOHN 21:18-22, MATTHEW 6:24-34, PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15, AND HEBREWS 2:12.

This week we are considering several joy killers that Satan uses to take our focus off of Jesus and steal our joy. Which of these stands out to you most—entitlement, comparison, worry, negative perspective, wrong perspective?

We may not feel entitled in an obvious way, but what are some ways we still might feel entitled before God?

What are some signs to know if you are living according to entitlement or according to grace? Why is the gospel at odds with entitlement?

How did Peter fall into the comparison trap in John 21:18-22?

What are some ways you are compare yourself to others, even in your relationship with God?

How does mankind's collective neediness for the gospel eliminate our ability to compare ourselves to other people, even other Christians?

Would you consider yourself a worrier? How does worry steal joy in Jesus?

Worry and negative perspective are common in the world today. How does life with Jesus change our view of the things we worry about and the times we are tempted to view everything negatively?

Hebrews 12:2 reminds us we don't need to only avoid a negative perspective, we need to make sure we have the right perspective according to God? How does perspective shape the way we view life everyday?

APPLICATION

How is God speaking to you about one of these joy killers today? How is He calling you to respond to Him?