

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. Where have you seen God active in your life this week? What are the highlights of his common grace for you—the rain and the sunshine that he gives to believer and unbeliever alike? What are the challenges with which he is training you?

2. How has God spoken into your life this past week through your personal Bible study and devotion time? Ahha's? Challenges? Comfort?

3. Let's pool physics with our faith walk in light of the sermon and sermon theme from John 15:9-17, A Joyful Life Turns on the Love of God.
 - a. What force keeps a gyroscope oriented on a plane?

 - b. What force keeps the Christian oriented with his/her God? Refer to I John 4:7-11 to "orient the gyroscope."

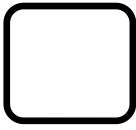
 - c. What happens to a gyroscope if the energy that drives the spinning wheel decreases or ceases? How do you reinvigorate a gyroscope?

How do these truths enlighten our faith walk? What is the KEY to the joyful life turning on the love of God?

4. Read all of 2 John. It is a thought-provoking commentary on the love of God and that love's intersection with God's truth. What is the relationship between truth and love for the Christian on our earthly walk? What is the challenge for the Christian keeping in mind both God's truth and his love?

5. In what unique ways do you show the Father's love in Jesus ("fruit that lasts") that might help the group grow in bearing more fruit? (share the definition of fruit that lasts?)

6. That's a wrap! Pray yourselves out in the Name of Jesus.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

A JOYFUL LIFE TURNS ON THE LOVE OF GOD

John 15:9-17

The Lesson of the Gyroscope

1. UNDERSTAND THE WONDER OF HIS LOVE...

A. By GRACE We Stand In His Love

We can't truly _____ the love of the Father.

Yet we stand in it because Jesus _____ it!

B. GRAB HOLD of His Love and Pay It Forward

Love of SELF is _____.

Love finds its JOY in _____ in others.

APPLICATION A lesson from a lunch meeting with a friend...

2. UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF HIS COMMITMENT...

A. To Have a Friend, You've Got to BE a FRIEND

It is easy for us with our _____.

It was "easy" for Jesus with _____ and _____!

B. So God Stepped In With Mission and Vision

He _____ us into the vine!

He has _____ to love like his Father!

APPLICATION You know that "fruit" doesn't have to be AMAZING, right?

CONCLUSION Of moms and gyroscopes and the Father in heaven...

Next Steps

- **Read Ecclesiastes** chapters 1 and 12. Ponder Solomon's blunt evaluation of this life without the *eternal vision* of faith grounded in our Savior God.
- **Ponder** the *spiritual gyroscope* of believer and unbeliever. **Genesis 39:6-10** illustrates the believer's perseverance (maintaining his or her orientation) in the life lived for God. **Exodus 11:1-9** illustrates an unbeliever's perseverance and the peril of living life for self.
- **Survey** the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17. Evaluate the orientation of your *spiritual gyroscope* when it comes to God's law. Ponder Romans 8:1a and bask in the gospel of Jesus Christ! In prayer put it all together to produce fruit that lasts into eternity.