

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of June 18, 2017

**This Week's Focus:** The Holy Spirit implants an abiding, growing joy in God into the heart of everyone who has been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**This Week's Text:** Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 5:1-5

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." **Psalm 16:11**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What is Paul's purpose for writing his letter to the Galatians? (1:6-7) Who were the Judaizers and what false gospel/teaching were they spreading? What is the difference between obedience to the law (as Christ commanded) and relying on the law for justification?
- How are we as sinners justified (declared righteous) by a holy God? (Galatians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- What war against joy (and the other characteristic fruit of the Spirit) does every believer experience? (Galatians 5:17-21) What is the "flesh"? Discuss why an inordinate desire of good things is also sin. Do you remember your life before Christ, when the desires of the flesh went unopposed? How has your life changed since the gospel transformed your heart?
- What is joy? How is joy related to the glory of God? Contrast lasting, God-centered joy with happiness.
- Discuss why living in sin robs us of joy. Why also is there a lack of joy in self-determined law keeping? When we sin, how does the Holy Spirit restore our joy in Christ?
- Read Romans 5:1-5. What is the basis of our joy? Discuss phrases like justified by faith, peace with God, access by faith, standing before God by grace, and hope in the glory of God.
- How does joy endure even amidst suffering? Share some moments from your life when you experienced a deep, abiding joy even when the circumstances around you were harsh, uncertain, or grim.
- What are some practical ways we can we foster a deeper sense of joy in God? How is our joy linked to loving others and living on gospel mission?