



We are continuing in our “Smile” series, where we are focusing on the joy of the Lord. This is a great series to invite our unchurched friends to so please encourage your folks to consider who they might be able to invite!

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other’s prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

Let’s also keep praying for the refugees and for our summer trips to Berlin. Please see week one’s lesson for more information on what’s currently taking place, short info videos, and prayer points.

SUSTAINING JOY

Last week we studied a key verse from Philippians 4:4 where Paul exhorts the people, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Intro question: Do any of you have stories of how you were able to rejoice this last week?

Have people pull out their Bibles/apps and read Romans 12:2:

²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

As we did last week, have your group declare the key text from Romans 12:2 to each other, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Then break up into small groups of 3-4 and lead them through the following discussion questions one at a time that they can discuss in their small groups:

- In what ways do we conform to the pattern of this world?
- What is the importance of renewing our minds?
- What would be the result of this transformation?
- Take a moment to ask God if there are ways in which our minds need to be renewed?
- How might we intentionally pursue such renewing?
- Are there people in our life who seem stuck conforming to the pattern of this world and need to be transformed by the renewing of their minds? If so, how might we be able to help them do that?

You might also consider providing index cards for folks to write the key verse on one side and how they're going to intentionally pursue the renewing of their mind on the back. That way they can put it up somewhere to remind them about God's truths.

Close this time by having the groups pray for each other to intentionally pursue transformation by the renewing of their minds.