

Home Group Study Guide

Sermon Title: "God Wants You Happy"



ICEBREAKER:

In the spirit of our new sermon series, "Things God Never Said," let's start out tonight with a little quiz!

I'll name a phrase and then you have to choose whether or not it's a real Bible verse.

1. "God helps those who help themselves."
(NOT a Bible verse)
2. "You shall have no other gods before me."
(YES, a Bible verse - Deuteronomy 5:7)
3. "For the wages of sin is death"
(YES, a Bible verse - Romans 6:23)
4. "God don't like ugly."
(NOT a Bible verse)
5. "God created human beings in his own image."
(YES, a Bible verse - Genesis 1:27)

6. "Spare the rod, spoil the child."
(NOT a Bible verse)

7. "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
(NOT a Bible verse)

8. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
(YES, a Bible verse - Philippians 4:13)

9. "All things work together for good."
(YES, a Bible verse - Romans 8:28)

10. "God works in mysterious ways."
(NOT a Bible verse)

How did you do? Did anybody get all ten right? Don't be embarrassed if you got a couple wrong. Jacob missed #6 as he was preparing this!

Which one surprised you the most?



THINK: This Sunday's sermon was full of some difficult truth. As much as we would like to think that God wants us to be happy, that's not His ultimate desire for us. Let's unpack that a little bit.

What are some things that can bring us happiness but are not from God?

Sometimes difficult circumstances are actually God's will for you. Please share a time when something that caused you discomfort, delay, risk, suffer-

ing, inconvenience or obstacle actually turned out to be God's will working in your life.

Even when things aren't bringing us happiness, God can still use them for his good, and no matter what comes, remember that He is always in control. John 16:33 says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

READ:

Have someone read 1 Peter 1:15.

God does not want us to pursue happiness. God wants us to pursue Him.

What's an area of your life where you tend to pursue your own personal happiness or comfort over God?

Have someone read Psalm 37:4.

What does it mean to delight in the Lord?

What are the desires of your heart?



PRAYER:

Spend some time taking individual prayer requests and then praying for the people in your Home Group.