

Friendships that Produce Joy Philippians 1:1-11

*Doing life with friends who see the world just like I do brings comfort and maybe even happiness. But being in community forged by the _____
_____ (even with friends very different from me) brings genuine joy.*

Discussion 1. How might you recognize that particular relationships or friendships were actually forged by the Holy Spirit? What are some signs of this?

Now that we have learned that, as Christ followers, we cannot go long without community with other believers, perhaps our next lesson is that meaningful community can happen in a _____.

Discussion 2. During this season of having to do community electronically or socially distanced, what have you learned about yourself and your needs for community? What do you believe God has been teaching you about this?

Many and cheap are the friendships that bring us happiness. But relationships that produce genuine joy are those with whom we have walked through _____ and _____ and, together, found spiritual significance.

Discussion 3. Think about the worst season(s) of your life. Who walked with you? How important is that relationship (or those relationships) to you today? Is there also a spiritual component to the relationship?

*To the Christ follower, love and truth are _____.
One without the other is worthless, even meaningless. Friendships that produce long term joy are ones where both truth and love are abounding more and more.*

Discussion 4. What happens to a relationship where there is love without truth? What happens when there is truth without love? For which relationship(s) in your life will you now pray for an increase in love and knowledge and discernment, all three?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?