



CHASING

Happy

WEEK 5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

Everyone wants to be happy. We all, in one way or another, chase opportunities that we think will lead us to physical, financial, or social happiness. Often, even if we successfully catch what we are chasing after, once we experience it, we come to realize that it doesn't make us as happy as we expected; and so off we go, to find something else to chase. The truth is that only when we chase after Jesus and the life he calls us to will we be truly happy.

Scripture:

James 1:2-4 - "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

For More, Read & Discuss James 1:2-18

Discussion Questions:

1. When you first meet someone new, how do you introduce yourself? What are the first few things you tell them about yourself?
 - Do you think that those few details give people a full picture of who you really are?
2. What do you think the key ingredients are that make up who *you* are? (Experiences? Beliefs? Family?)
3. We tend to think of ourselves as static people, but we are always changing and growing. When you look back, how has God changed and grown you through perseverance over the past year? Five years? Ten?
 - Did you recognize those changes as they were happening?
4. What kind of growth do you hope God brings about in your life in the future?

Take the Next Step:

When you think about the way that God has shaped you into who you are, it seems like there are often trials involved that require perseverance. How can you allow your perspective on past trials to inform your attitude towards trials that you may meet in the future?