



## Road Trip: Enjoy The Ride | August 22, 2018

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

It seems that the way people look at weather also shapes the way they view life. Our faith has given us something bigger than that... not just happiness, but joy.

#### Key Verses

**John 15:9-11 (NIV)**

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

#### Discussion

When it comes to the weather, especially in a place with volatile seasons like Michigan, people often have strong opinions. You can read many of them just by scrolling through Facebook. It's either "too hot" if it's summer or "too cold" if it's winter. As humans, it's almost like we are wired to focus on anything that's not exactly perfect (or the way that we would like it to be), and if anything is less than ideal we are quick to complain.

1. What is something (like the weather) that you are easily and often frustrated by?
2. Why do you think humans are prone to complain when their circumstances are less than ideal?

If we consider the bigger picture, we start to understand that seasons are just that... seasonal. Summer is just a snapshot in the course of an entire year. Similarly, when we begin to lean into our faith more, we learn to see the "weather" in our lives as just weather. And although we can't control the events in our lives, just like we can't control the weather, we do have control over our perception of those events. Instead of being swayed by fleeting happiness or frustration, we can choose to view our circumstances with a lens of overflowing joy.

3. What does it look like to control your perception of the "weather" in your life?
4. What is one current circumstance you would like to see through a perception of joy instead of frustration?

In John 15:9-11 we learn that because of our relationship with Jesus, and by following his commands, we are gifted with his presence and overflowing joy. When we experience the ups and downs of "weather" in our lives, we can remember to choose a perception that reflects this truth. Because we have been given so much, God's grace should spur us on so that we might see beyond our circumstances and in spite of them, simply enjoy the ride.

5. Have you experienced the overflowing joy available to you in following Jesus?
6. How might living into this truth change certain areas of your life?

#### What's Next?

On our road trip journey of life, we need to be better at choosing a perception of grace and overflowing joy. As we grow in our faith, we understand more and more about how to live into the joy we have been gifted as followers of Jesus.

This week, as you live out your faith, take time to reflect on the things that bring you joy – the gifts you have, the ways you have been blessed, and the moments you feel at peace. Reflect on these things in a thankfulness prayer. When fleeting frustration tempts you, remember that you have the power to control your perception and perspective with a lens of enduring joy.