

Use the following growth group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his Word and others.

### **BREAK IT OUT:**

1. Can you remember a time where it didn't make sense that you were joyful, but you were able to have joy because of God?
2. What got your attention or surprised you in Sunday's sermon?

### **TALK IT OUT:**

3. As we look at past difficulties, struggles or lifestyle choices, how can we seek God through them?
4. How does *Romans 8:28* help us in gaining God's perspective on our past?
5. How do we find the balance between our effort to run the race with endurance and God's power working through us?
6. Why must our hope be anchored to eternity rather than to this life only?
7. What can hinder us from being bold in our Christian life?
8. How can we demonstrate boldness corporately and individually in our community? In our families? In our place of work?

### **WORK IT OUT:**

9. Think of one thing that God is personally speaking to you through Sunday's sermon. What is your next step?
10. How can your growth group pray for you this week?

## **THE JOY OF NEW LIFE**

10/12 in the series Just Between Us

August 20, 2017 • Pastor Reggie Rice • *John 16:16-24*

How can anyone talk about joy at a time like this? Jesus knew the mob was getting prepared. Torches, soldiers, chains - Jesus knew what was to come. He knew the grief that was ahead, and yet, greater than the grief was the joy he was about to share...the joy of new life!

The Joy of New Life:

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

1. **The joy of new life gives us perspective on our past** - (*Romans 8:28*). *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
2. **The joy of new life gives us endurance in the present** - (*Hebrews 12:1-3*). *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*
3. **The joy of new life gives us boldness for the future** - (*Romans 15:13*). *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

### **Take Away**

This week, who needs to hear your story of new life?

**NEXT WEEK 11/12 • JUST BETWEEN US**