

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

Focus: To evaluate the life of Christ and how he was able to bring peace and joy even in the midst of struggle. To evaluate our lives and see what we bring to the world.

Introduction: Our life circumstances too often dictate what we think about God. When times are good, then God is good. When times are hard, then God is distant. So often when tragedy strikes our family, many of us really don't know where to turn. The word Brad spoke to us this morning was Celebration...

- Evaluate what you heard this morning.
- Is Celebration really possible in a world that is hurting? (Julie Sutterfield? Nell Cummings?)
- Compare and contrast a life that loves God because of the blessings He provides versus the life that loves God because of the cross.
- What is the difference?

Text: Jesus celebrated life by giving others hope and healing even in the midst of struggle and impending death. The heart of God beat inside of Him, and He gave it to the world.

Read Mark 6:1-34

- Describe the hardships you see in Christ's life in this section.
- Assess how you might feel at this moment in your life.
- Compare what you might do here versus what He does.
- Discuss His view of God and His view of life and how it compares to yours.
- What did people sense in Him, even in the hard times, that drew them to Him?

Application: Tonight is really about looking at the heart of our God and seeing if His heart beats inside of us...a heart of gratefulness for a great and gracious God. Think about what God was doing when He instituted the Year of Jubilee. Think about what God was doing as Christ hung on that cross and then rose again. He offers hope to all—no matter the situation!

- Assess what people see in you on your good days . . . on your bad days.
- Are you defined more by your life circumstances or by the cross of Christ?
- Is the life that exudes the love of Christ (celebration) really attainable?

Conclude your time by sharing stories of people you know who give us an example of a life that is a celebration of God and of life.

Prayer: in smaller groups tonight and let people share their hearts!