

## Small Group Notes for April 19, 2009

### Memory Verse: Jeremiah 31:13

"I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

### Discovery Bible Study:

Step 1: Read Isaiah 51:11, "The ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

Step 2: Write out this passage in your own words

Step 3: What do you discover in this passage about God's plan and purpose for our lives?

Step 4: What would God want you to do in response to this passage?

- Day 1 - John 20:10-18
- Day 2 - Isaiah 51:1-3
- Day 3 - Isaiah 51:4-11
- Day 4 - Isaiah 51:12-16
- Day 5 - Isaiah 51:17-22

### Lesson: From Sorrow to Joy

1. Reading from the prophecies of Jeremiah 31:13 and Isaiah 51:11, what is God's plan for His children in Christ Jesus?

God makes it clear in these two passages that through the salvation that comes in Christ we as believers will find joy, gladness, and comfort. Sorrow, sighing, and mourning will leave the believer and follower of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2. How does seeking and finding the risen Lord, as Mary did, replace our sorrow with joy?

Colossians 3:1-3 reminds us that because of Christ we should set our hearts and minds on things above. We are reminded that in Christ our eternal joy will overcome our temporary suffering and struggles. When we are in an eternal relationship with Jesus, the power of the cross will overtake sorrow.

3. Why do you think so many Christians struggle with real joy?

Let people discuss to consider how close we trust and believe God in His promises and how much we truly rely and focus on Jesus as Savior and Lord.

4. How would you respond to and counsel a Christ follower who still is filled with sorrow?

Let people share. When a brother or sister is struggling we need to restore them in truth and love. Our human nature will pull us into sorrow but the power of the Holy Spirit working and reminding us of the truth and promise of God will overcome sorrow. Are we willing to trust and believe?