Knowle Parish Church

Home Group Discussion Questions: 19th April

Finding a deeper joy

Joy in relationship with Jesus

John 15:1-11

As we journey into summer 2026, we're thinking about joy. Where does it come from? What does it mean? And how do we live with a deeper sense of joy in our lives. This series is based on a series of sermons given at the morning services at KPC, you can listen to the audio of those talks on our website.

Starter: When have you felt at your most joyful? Can you describe how that felt? How long did it last?

1. Which of the following words would you tend to use most when describing what following Jesus gives us:

   Forgiveness Love Hope Joy Peace. – Why is that?

2. In John 15:11, Jesus says: '*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.'* Jesus talks about 'my joy' in us. Have you ever known God's joy? What does that mean to you?

Read John 15:1-11

3. Jesus speaking about joy in v11 comes in this section about Jesus being the vine. He says he tells us that we're in the vine so that we know his joy.
   What aspects of this imagery might lead us to be joyful?
   [Leader's notes – consider v5 *We are in him*; *We only need to be branches; We will bear fruit.]*

4. Jesus encourages us to 'remain' in the vine. If you were to explain this concept to a friend, how would you say you live this out? What do you do to 'remain'?
   [*Note v7 – his words in us, what does this mean?; v10 keeping his commands]*

5. Being in the vine leads to bearing fruit. Noticing God's fruit in our lives is a key way of knowing his joy.
   Where have you seen God's fruit in your life?
   [Note – you might need to help one another to notice this in their lives, can you see changed attitudes; answered prayers; moments when you've had an impact etc]

6. There are also some challenging aspects to this imagery, v2 and v6.
   a) How do you respond to the idea of God 'pruning' you so you bear fruit? Have you ever experienced this in your life?
   b) Why do you think Jesus talks about branches being 'cut off' and 'burned'? Is this the kind of language you expect to hear from Jesus?

   [note – consider that Israel is often pictured in the old testament as a vine. You might like to read Isaiah 5:1-7]

7. The two alternative endings for branches in this story, (being cut off or bearing fruit), might lead us towards a sense of fear if we don't see the fruit we want. However, Jesus says he gives us this image so that his joy would be in us instead. What makes the difference in how we respond to these words?

8. What aspects or areas of your life would you like to know Jesus' joy? Can you glimpse Jesus at work there already, if only in small ways?

Finally

9. Take some time to stop and rest in God's presence together. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with more of the joy of Jesus. Bring to him those areas where you long to know his joy.
10. Share any other prayer needs and ask for God's joy to be found in those spaces.