



# GREAT BIG U

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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OCTOBER 1, 2017

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** God's plans for believers to influence the world are group plans. He's designed a system where believers work together with a united purpose, but widely varied functions to accomplish His goals. We call that diverse-yet-unified system, "church."

## 2. BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:12-19 [ESV]

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ ... If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?"*



Q. Have you ever felt like a "spare part," or unnecessary organ in the church body?

Q. List several different functions that people might serve as part of a church. Which ones have you normally considered the most important? Which ones are least important?

Q. Look at the "less important" functions on your list. Can the church survive without them? If so, would it be more effective without the functions, or less effective?

## 3. DISCUSSION

Proverbs 27:17 [ESV] *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."*

The relationships we build, functioning together in a church, can be some of the deepest and most rewarding in life. They can also lead to some of the deepest and most painful offenses. As we work together, conflict will inevitably come, but we need to use that to spur us on to grow as individuals and as an organization.

Q. Think of an example of conflict between different people functioning as part of the church body. In what ways could that conflict hurt the body? In what ways could it produce growth?



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for the purpose He has for you as part of the church body. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you work together with other believers to affect our world and grow His kingdom.



# JOY

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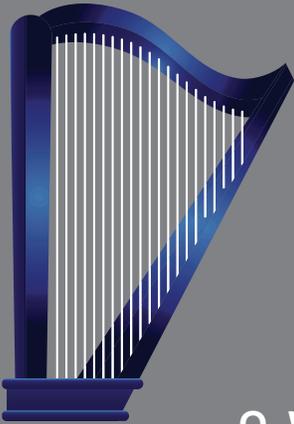
### 1. POWER VERSE: Psalm 68:3 *"But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy."*

#### "I'll Be Full of the Joy of the Lord!"

In our series, "Soul Food", we continue to find out the key ingredients for a healthy Christian life. This week, we learn that joy is one of those ingredients. A lot of times it is easy for followers of Jesus to lose their joy when bad or difficult circumstances come their way. When tough stuff happens in our lives, we often lose our sense of joy because we've forgotten some very important things about the joy of the Lord.

### 2. BIBLE READING:

Read: 2 Samuel 6



Q. What happened that caused David to worship God like he did?

Q. How did David show his joy and worship?

Q. What did David's wife, Michal, say about David dancing before the Lord?

Q. How did David respond? Did he let Michal's criticism keep him from having and expressing his joy in the Lord?

### 3. DISCUSSION:

David had joy even when his wife, Michal, criticized him during his time of worship and dancing. In spite of what was going on around him, David chose to have the joy of the Lord and let no one stop him from showing it. From this we learn that joy is not optional - it's a command. The Bible says we must have joy - even when the things going on around us aren't very fun and exciting. And the reason we should have joy in every circumstance, good or bad, is because God is with us always.



Q. What are some circumstances that could cause you to lose your joy?

Q. What can you do to make sure you never allow your circumstances to keep you from having the joy of the Lord?



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that your children will have joy no matter what circumstances they are facing. Pray that they will remember that joy is not optional because they know that God is with them always.