Dec 11,14 Hebrews 13

# Connect (15-20 mins)

1. Follow up on any prayer requests from last week. Share highs and lows or updates as you settle in. You can also find our list of 100 Ice Breaker Questions in our Leader Tool Kit in your Well account.

#### **Grow (5-10 mins)**

2. In last week's practice, you were invited to consider the presence of God's discipline in your life. After considering this, in what ways do you feel God is currently inviting you to submit to His discipline in your life?

# **Share (45-60 mins)**

- 3. If you were honest, what "strange teachings" or cultural trends most tug at your thinking or desires? What steps can you take to resist their pull and anchor yourself more deeply in Christ's unchanging truth (Heb. 13:7–9)?
- 4. Who did God use to bring you to faith or to help shape you in the early stages of following Christ? How did their investment impact your walk with Jesus, and how can you follow their example as you consider your daily witness to those around you?
- 5. The author of Hebrews often addresses the doubting and discouraged in their faith. In your current season, where might you be experiencing—or be at risk of experiencing—spiritual burnout?
- 6. As you reflect on all we've learned in Hebrews, what has resonated with you most, or what is something new you've learned as we've walked through this book? If possible, explain how this has personally impacted your life.
- 7. Consider ending your time as a group this week praying for Christian Leaders in our city and worldwide (This could be Elders, Pastors, Government leaders, Business Owners, etc.)
  - o Ideas for prayer:
    - Boldness in preaching the gospel
    - Perseverance in faith and conduct
    - Wisdom and discernment in decision-making
    - Supernatural compassion and love for others

#### Practice: Advent Season - JOY

"Out of His fullness we have received. There is no way that it can mean that any of us have received all of His fullness. It means that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, is the only medium through which God dispenses His benefits to His creation.

Because Jesus Christ is the eternal Son, because He is of the eternal generation

and equal with the Father as pertaining to His substance, His eternity, His love, His power, His grace, His goodness, and all of the attributes of deity, He is the channel through which God dispenses all His blessing."

-A.W. TOZER, FROM HEAVEN

He is the fullness of Joy. In Christ we receive "every spiritual blessing" (Eph. 1:3) and He came so that our joy would be found in Him and our joy would be made full (Jn.15:11). Our prince of peace, Immanuel, Jesus Messiah comes to bring not only healing from pain, payment for sin, but joy and joy to the full. This week start a Joy Journal (the steps are below), and commit to one of the four options to share joy with others.

#### Joy Journal

A Simple Daily Pattern for Noticing God's Joy (3-5 min a day)

#### Pause & Breathe

Sit quietly and pray: "Lord, help me see Your joy today."

#### Remember

Write down one thing God has done for you today or recently. This can be spiritual, emotional, relational, or practical: "Today, I saw God's goodness in..."

#### **Give Thanks**

• Write down one thing you are thankful for today, no matter how small: "Today, I thank God for..."

#### **Prayer of Joy**

End with prayer with the Lord over the joy of knowing Christ.

#### **Share Joy With Others**

# 1. Offer Encouragement (Words of Joy)

- Send a text or card with a short blessing.
- Tell someone one thing you genuinely appreciate about them.
   Speak hope to someone who may feel discouraged.

# 2. Give Generously (Acts of Joy)

• Give to someone in need (food, money, time, or help), donate to a ministry or charity, bring a small gift or baked item to someone lonely or overwhelmed.

#### 3. Pray for Someone (Intercession of Joy)

Choose one person and pray specifically for their joy, strength, and peace.

# 4. Joy in Presence (Being With Someone)

• Call someone who might be lonely, spend unhurried time with a family member, or share a meal or coffee with someone.