

## Discussion Guide

12/17/2023

# He's Over It

Pastor Daniel Groves

### Main Idea

Pastor Daniel focuses on finding joy by placing Jesus above all else. It clarifies that joy and happiness are different, with joy coming from our relationship with God. The sermon explores surrendering various aspects of our lives to Jesus, emphasizing humility and trust. It concludes by inviting listeners to commit their lives to Jesus, emphasizing the importance of surrender and trust in finding true joy.

**Anchor Verse:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13, NIV)

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between happiness and joy, and why is it important to understand this distinction?

Context: The sermon discussed that happiness is connected to events that happen, while joy is directly connected to a relationship with God.

Application Question: How can understanding the difference between happiness and joy help you in your walk with God?

2. How can you nurture your relationship with God in order to experience lasting joy?

Context: The sermon emphasized that true joy comes from God and that we need to nurture our relationship with Him.

Application Question: What are some practical ways you can invest in your relationship with God on a daily basis?

3. What does it mean to place Jesus over different aspects of your life, and why is this important?

Context: The sermon explored the idea of placing Jesus over our family, time, resources, worries, plans, failures, and hearts.

Application Question: Which aspect of your life do you find the most challenging to surrender to Jesus and why?

4. Based on Romans 15:13, why is placing our hope in God essential to experiencing joy and peace?

Context: Romans 15:13 says, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.'

Application Question: How can you choose to place your hope in God during difficult or uncertain situations?

5. What are some practical ways you can practice humility, trust, and letting go of control in order to surrender to Jesus?

Context: The sermon emphasized that surrendering these areas to Jesus requires humility, trust, and a willingness to let go of control.

Application Question: What is one specific area of your life where you can begin to let go of control and trust Jesus more?

## Prayer Time

- Begin by asking for any prayer requests from the group members.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of the difference between joy and happiness, asking God to help us experience His joy in our day-to-day lives, regardless of our circumstances.
- Ask God to show us the areas of our lives where we need to place Jesus over - our family, our time, our resources, our worries, our plans, our failures, and our hearts. Pray for the humility, trust, and surrender needed to do this.
- Request God's guidance and wisdom in seeking counsel, praying, and making intentional choices that align with His will.
- Pray for a spirit of surrender and commitment to Jesus, asking God to help us respond to His invitations in our lives.

## Important Information

### December 22 & 23 - A Hope City Christmas - West Houston Only

Christmas at Hope City is coming to town, and we have a festive lineup of services planned. Hop in your sleigh and experience the joy of A Hope City Christmas on December 22nd and 23rd at our West Houston location ONLY. Join us at 5 pm or 7 pm for this one-of-a-kind Christmas experience!

### December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - All Locations

We can't wait to celebrate the reason for the season with you during our special Candlelight Christmas Eve Services. We will have regular times at all of our campuses.

## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### **Game: Fill the Stocking**

Two-four teams compete to fill stockings using plain M&M's and teaspoons! This is a relay-race type game.

Each team has one bowl of M&M's and a teaspoon. The game begins with a member of each team racing across the room with a teaspoon of M&M's being careful not to drop any M&M's. Be careful! If they drop any, they have to start over.

They dump the M&M's into the stocking and race back to give the next member the spoon. She scoops up M&M's and races to the other end (racing against the other team) to fill the stocking. The first team to fill their stocking wins.

Tip: set a time limit and use a timer.