



1. When Satan tempted Eve in the garden, what did he tell her would happen to her if she ate the fruit? Was that the truth? What did Satan cause Adam and Eve to doubt?

Answer – He told her that she would become like God, which was a lie. He caused them to doubt if God was being good to them since He was withholding something from them. They doubted that God wanted them to be happy and fulfilled.

2. Finish the statement Pastor Paul made: “God wants me to be happy, but he may not want me to be happy \_\_\_\_\_ . Do you agree with this statement? Can you think of some specific instances where God wouldn’t want you to be happy?”

Answer – Right Now

3. The Bible speaks a lot about God wanting us to experience joy (John 16:24, Romans 15:13, Galatians 5:22). What is the difference between joy and happiness? Can you have one without the other?

Answer – Having joy is the confidence that no matter what the circumstances, God will cause them to work out for my good. Happiness is our emotional response to circumstances that we think are good. You can have joy even when you are unhappy, and you can experience happiness without having joy. Example: Having sex outside of marriage can make you happy and at the same time you have no joy because you know it will not end well. You can be unhappy with the circumstances you are going through but still be joyful because you know in the end, God will make it work out for your best.

4. Share with the group a time you believed that if you had something or did something it would bring you happiness but, in the end, once you had it, it did not make you happy.

5. Do you believe that God knows better than you do what will make you happy? If a person truly believes this, how will it affect the way they live?

6. Many times, we believe that enjoying pleasurable things is what brings true happiness. Do you believe this is true? What is the problem with this view from a Biblical point of view?

Answer – Many things that we might consider pleasurable are also sinful, so if we just live for that which brings us pleasure, we know that in the end sinful activities will bring death to the things that really bring lasting happiness. Example: Having an affair might be pleasurable, but in the end, it will destroy our marriage and family.