

Things to Think About

Can you think of a time when you thought something would bring you true happiness, and it did not? Why is that?

A famous Christian writer named Augustine wrote that we are restless until we look for real happiness with God. He said, "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and we are restless until we rest in You." Write in your journal what you think about his words.

Things to Share

Jesus' message of love was not one for those who were weak or afraid of life. Look what happened to Jesus after He preached and lived this message. Are you strong enough to love as Jesus did? How will you show this to others?

Knowing Jesus, Living Jesus

Leader: Let us begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Leader: Father, you sent your Son Jesus to bring us glad tidings and to proclaim the Good News of new life! We rejoice in His Word. Help us to grow in knowledge and love of His ways. We ask this through Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

[Read Luke 4:16-21. All pause for quiet reflection.]

Leader: In meeting Jesus, we are given an example: to bring the glad tidings of salvation to all, to preach freedom, and to live in the sight of God. To each petition of thankfulness we will respond, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul."

Reader 2: We grow in wisdom and grace. We gain favor with God and with others.

All: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.

Reader 3: We do Your Father's will. We are Your brothers and sisters.

All: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.

PRAYING

Group 1: Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Group 2: Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Group 1: And found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Group 2: Because of this, God greatly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Group 1: That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Group 2: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11