SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: From This Day Forward: From Dating to Marriage
Message Title: Have Fun
Speaker: Kevin Queen
Date: March 1, 2015

Icebreaker: What’s the most adventurous thing you’ve ever done? Who did you do it with?

Message Overview:
Today’s message is the third in the series FROM THIS DAY FORWARD. This series is based on the book From This Day Forward: Five Commitments to Fail-Proof Your Marriage by Pastor Craig and Amy Groeschel. This week, Pastor Kevin Queen (KQ) shared a lesson about joy.

Big Picture:
1. Joy shows up in relationship.
2. Jesus alone can complete you.
3. Jesus gives you abundant life so that you can share it.
4. If you want to enjoy, you’ve got to bring joy.

Best Practices: (from the book)
1. Face-to-Face fun
2. Side-by-Side fun
3. Belly Button-to-Belly Button fun

Discussion: (Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week’s primary message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!)
• Read John 15-11. Jesus says He wants to give us His joy. Not just a little bit, but to be filled to the brim with joy! KQ said joy is revealed in relationship. What are the signs of joy in your relationships?

• KQ told a story of during a time in life when he said yes to everything. He learned you can’t do love or relationships in a hurry. Work, kids, school... sometimes everything else takes precedence over our marital relationship. Pastor Kevin has talked about doing life at the speed of love—slowing down for relationships. KQ remembered his priorities, and made a change from that day forward. "From this day forward" is said at the end of a wedding ceremony, but you can say that right now. You can say it every day. Do you ever feel that other priorities have taken over your ability to do life at the speed of love? What is a practical step you can take to change that, starting from this day forward?

• KQ talked about The Jerry McGuire Myth: “You complete me.” He reminded us that our completion is not the job of another person; it’s Jesus’ job. He reminded us to let God be our "one," and then we can look for our "two." We need to seek God first and as we are running toward God, we may find someone who runs at our pace. Is it difficult for you to keep God number one in your life? What can we do to make that a reality?

• Read John 10:10. KQ said Jesus gives abundant life. Not just enough, but more than enough. Overflowing! He gives you joy so that you can share it. Do you find it easy to share joy? Have you ever felt like your joy was being stolen from you? What can you do if you feel that way?

• Read Proverbs 15:30. KQ encouraged us to smile more, to be the joy bringer, and to be the emotional thermostat in our relationships. What do you do in your relationship for face-to-face fun?

• KQ stated that it is important to count your spouse’s interests as important as your own. Do you do fun things side-by-side, things that your spouse chooses to do? What are some examples of how you do this?

• Read Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NLT and NIV). KQ said that marriage doesn’t drift toward romance; it drifts toward roommates. We have to be intentional to keep the joy in our relationships. Pursuing intimacy isn’t easy, but being intentional in face-to-face time and side-by-side fun will result in deeper intimacy. Proverbs 5:18 states that a man should rejoice in the wife of his youth, intoxicated with love.
Wrap-Up/Close:
KQ shared that he prays “Jesus, be my joy, and would you help me bring your joy, and may nothing steal my joy.” What would happen if you prayed and lived this in your work relationships, your marriage relationships, and your parenting relationships?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)
• Don’t let the enemy steal your joy. What do you need to do this week to bring joy to your relationships?
• You can download the song “Adventure” from 12Stone.com/Adventure