

— weekly —
**STUDY
GUIDE**

100 HAPPY PEOPLE

WEEK 7 // *Bear with One Another*

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Introduction

Welcome to week seven of the 100 Happy People study! If we're honest, some people in our lives are about as pleasant as a root canal. You might find them in your family, neighborhood, or school, or work. Spiritual maturity takes place when we learn to bear with the difficult people in our lives.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study, along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends.

Personal Study

READ

Read Psalm 133 and consider the questions below:

CONSIDER

1. While some of the Old Testament imagery (oil running down a beard, for example) might be lost on us, what are the benefits of Christians being unified? What would be a modern day illustration for the sweetness of Christian unity?
2. What are the implications if we aren't unified with each other under Christ?
3. Bearing with one another and unity go hand-in-hand in the kingdom of God. We aren't called to like each other at all times, but we are called to love one another. Who are some people you might need to reconcile with, in light of Christ's love?

Personal Study Continued...

4. Identify one person this week who really gets under your skin. How could you bear with that person this week, or even make him or her one of your 100 Happy People?

READ

Read Romans 15:1-6 and John 17:20-21 consider the question below:

CONSIDER

1. We often don't think of "bearing with" another person as "putting up with them." Yet Christ's call is for us to build up each other, even those we find most challenging. Who are people you find difficult to bear with? Why? In what ways can you love and build up those people up this week?

2. Based on what you just read, why is unity important?

3. If you were to give the current Christian church a grade on unity, what would it be? What can we do to improve? What part can you individually play in this improvement?

PRAY

Pray that God would give you patience for difficult people. Pray for unity with each other, even those who might be a burden to you. Pray that God would give you the ability to see them the way he does. Pray, too, for the global church to be unified, so that the world might see and believe.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Discuss this question as a group. What is an annoying habit that others do, that gets on your nerves?

Previously we learned these key truths:

1. We are called to serve one another in love.
2. Servants shift their expectations.
3. Servants know their unique assignments.

Discuss the questions below with your group:

- What new insights or questions about happiness came to your mind over the last week?
- In what ways did you attempt to bring happiness to the people in your life? How did they respond? What worked? What did not?

READ

Read Colossians 3:12-17 and discuss the questions below:

DISCUSS

1. Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. With these qualities, it's hard to let people truly get to you. Which one of these characteristics seems to come most naturally? Which one is challenge for you?
2. How can the group encourage and help you with the qualities you find challenging?
3. How can remembering the ways God forgives us help us bear with the shortcomings of others?

READ

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and discuss the questions below:

DISCUSS

1. The Ephesians were certainly dealing with disunity, especially on some of the foundations of our faith (one body, one spirit, one faith, one baptism, one God, etc.). Perhaps Ephesians is an early glimpse into the start of denominations that segment the Church today. How can we encourage unity with local churches and their members?
2. Often times we feel the people who irritate us the most are the people least like us. Who are some people in your life who you have learned to appreciate, despite your differences?
3. How can the group pray and encourage you to finish strong in the weeks ahead?

PRAY

Pray that God would give your group compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Pray that the peace of Christ would come and dwell in your hearts. Pray that God would let you see people with his eyes, knowing they are created that way for a reason and purpose. Encourage each other to continue to pursue Christ and the unity he's called all Christians to.