



## Introduction

Jesus came to bring life and joy. Jesus never broke God's law or His word but often disregarded the many rules of the religious leaders, as many of them had lost focus on caring for people. For many of the religious leaders, obedience to their special laws were more important than the life and joy of God's people. In this passage, the religious leaders were frustrated with Jesus and his disciples because they were not fasting in accordance with their traditions. In response, Jesus placed the focus upon himself and pointed out how he brings joy and celebration, not mourning and fasting.

## Observation/Interpretation

- Jesus gave two parables (stories) to illustrate how difficult it would be for the religious leaders (who added new rules/ideas to God's story) to accept the Kingdom Jesus came to bring. Discuss how these two stories illustrate this. (Mark 2:21-22)
- Why would Jesus liken his kingdom to a wedding feast?
- What do you think wedding feasts were known for?
- Why is joy a central theme to God's Kingdom?

## Application

- Are there times you've failed to rejoice in the good things God is doing because you've obsessed over rules, regulations or other cultural taboos not being followed or broken?
- Are there any areas in your life you need to repent of in which you've been critical like the religious leaders.
- What are some practical ways you can protect yourself from falling into the same trap the religious leaders did, who obsessed over their rules and regulations, while ignoring the joy others found in Jesus.

### Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

### Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.