

Awaken Tijuana - Pray Serve Give

*Our event in Tijuana is coming up so quickly and there is still so much to do!
Here are some opportunities:*

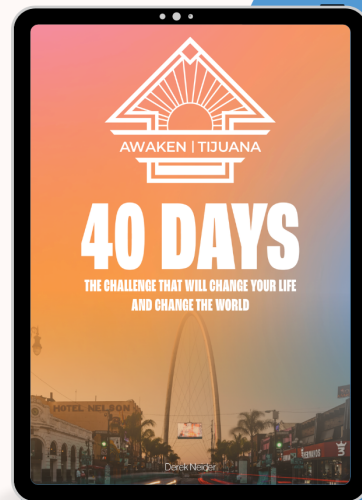
Our priority is always to pray - we have several prayer meetings each week in person. Plan to attend one of them. Are in our first week of 40 days prayer and fasting. Its not too late to join us!

JOIN US

and commit to 40 days of
prayer and fasting

SIGN UP TODAY

to get your welcome information (via email or text).
With weekly content, prayers, and updates about the
event each week!



PRAY FOR TIJUANA

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sundays 10am | Gospel Advancement Office
Tuesdays 12:30pm | Worship Center
Thursdays 5pm | Follow Up Room

ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 7 | The Pathway To Joy | John 3:22-30

OUR PURPOSE IS FOR CHRIST TO INCREASE FOR JESUS TO BE MAGNIFIED THAT IS TRUE JOY

Researchers are just beginning to discover the traumatic effects that COVID lockdowns, school closures, and social isolation have had on society. Add to that the significant economic pressures and volatile political divisions, and the scene is set for major emotional meltdowns, which is precisely the direction the data is pointing. Regardless of political stripe, it's well recognized that the negative psychological impact of the aforementioned issues is beyond what anyone could have imagined. Along with the staggering data concerning the psychological pain that youth are currently enduring, new research from the Boston University School of Public Health reveals that an elevated rate of depression has persisted since COVID response measures were implemented, and have even worsened, climbing to 32.8% and affecting 1 in every 3 American adults. This mental malaise is permeating the workplace, marriages, and friendships, to which the world has no concrete solution. But from a heavenly point of view, the scene looks much different. When it comes to circumstantially driven doldrums, the Bible prescribes a healthy dose of Spirit-enabled joy. God's joy combats the negative feelings that arise within us, lifting our hearts and souls above the tumult of the times. Truly, the joy of the Lord can be your strength.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Think about the faithfulness of God in your life and thank Him in prayer.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Pastor Derek described Christian joy as a Holy Spirit enabled response to the beauty of Christ, the blessing of His promises, and the fulfillment of His purpose that lifts the heart and soul of the Christian.

Do you agree with that? Using that description, as a group, discuss joy. Are you joyful? How do you struggle with being joyful, and why? Is joy a state of being, a choice we make, or a little bit of both?

2. John the Baptizer said, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

How does knowing that help you combat anxiety, disappointment, and the fear of loss?

EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, AND COMES DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHADOW OF TURNING.

JAMES 1:17

3. Pastor Derek said that if our purpose is to magnify Christ, it will help combat the negative feelings of frustration, confusion, emptiness, meaninglessness, and isolation.

How is that so? How can you bring the purpose of magnifying Christ into your everyday life?

4. It was mentioned in the study that joy is a Spirit-enabled response. It involves the work of God's Spirit, but it also requires us to choose. Paul meant as much when he exhorted the churches to rejoice always.

How can you help each other to choose joy? Spend time discussing what it means to rejoice.

Thought to Consider:

Has a dependence on technology, social media, or digital media content become a substitute for true Spirit-enabled joy?



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, choose joy. Not arbitrarily but specifically because of Christ's beauty, His promises and the purpose you have chosen to exalt and magnify Him. Take steps of faith to shine Jesus this week.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how joy lifted your heart and lifted the hearts of others.