

How can we make God happy?

"We were created by God to bring Him pleasure."

Small Group Notes

Revelation 4:11 (nlt)

We were created to bring God pleasure - *Psalm 149:4a*

Worship is- *"living a life pleasing to God"* - *Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:10*

There are four ways we can make God happy;

1. We make God happy when we love Him above everything

- *Hosea 6:6*

This is why God chose Noah. Noah had a relationship with God - *Genesis 6:9b*

We were made to be a part of God's family - *Ephesians 1:5*

2. We make God happy when we trust Him completely

- *Psalm 147:11*

Noah trusted God completely. He had incredible faith in God - *Hebrews 11:7*

What does it mean to trust God completely?

It means we trust God that He knows what is best for our lives! - *Psalm 50:14*

3. We make God happy when we obey Him wholeheartedly

- *James 2:24*

Noah is a great example of wholehearted obedience - *Hebrews 11:7b; Genesis 6:22*

What does it mean to obey God wholeheartedly?

It means; *Without Reservations. No holding back. No hesitation.*

No procrastination. No delay.

Wholehearted also means I do what God asks me to do enthusiastically.

- *Psalm 100:2a*

Obeying God wholeheartedly is having the same attitude as David in *Psalms 119:33*

The Bible says our natural inclinations are the exact opposite of what God wants us to do - *Romans 8:8*

4. We make God happy when we fulfil His purposes.

God smiles on our lives when we fulfil the purposes that He put us on earth to fulfil - *Genesis 9:1*

God has given us all various abilities and gifting and God takes pleasure in watching us use those abilities and gifting.

People can be more interested in pleasing themselves than the Creator who made them - *John 3:19*

God is looking for people who say, “*I want to live my life for the pleasure of God – to make Him happy!*” - *Psalms 14:2*

Will we decide to be a wise person by living a life that pleases God? *2 Peter 1:3*

God has provided the power to do the right thing. And even when we don't do it or blow it, He's provided the power to get us back on track by forgiveness through His Son – Jesus! *1 John 2:1b*

Discussion

- **Break up into groups of three and discuss the following three questions.**
- **Then come back as a main group and compare answers.**
- **Lastly, using Scripture find solutions and then pray for one another.**

1. **Trusting God means that we trust that God knows what is best for our lives!**

How can we trust God to know what is best for us when we find it hard to know what is best for ourselves? Discuss and list the obstacles we personally face that prevent us from trusting God completely. Eg – Self image.....

2. **Obeying God wholeheartedly means to obey without Reservations. No holding back. No hesitation. No procrastination and no delay.**

If this is the case, why then do we struggle to obey God wholeheartedly as defined above? Create a list of reasons why.

3. **The Bible says our natural inclinations are the exact opposite of what God wants us to do.** Describe in practical terms how this dilemma is played out in our decision making.

Romans 8:8 (njb) *Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God.*