

Having Fun – or what does ‘life in all its fullness’ mean?

This has been written as a group session, but you could adapt it as a sermon, if that is more appropriate.

1 AIM:

- To look more critically as to what we mean by “having fun”
- To help dispel the commonly held perception that Christianity and especially the Church is full of solemnity and “DON’T’S”
- To carefully to look at the common perception that taking drugs is fun

2 INTRODUCTION:

Encourage the group to share their ideas about what having fun means for them

(e.g. Letting your hair down with friends, running a marathon PB, playing Xbox, the scariest rollercoaster ride, touring the art galleries, going on a night out.)

Discuss why people find these activities so enjoyable.

And when is enough enough? When does the fun stop?

What are we seeking when we have fun? Can that be found in God?

Can having fun ever lead to undesirable outcomes?

3 COMMENT: ON DIFFERENT SORTS OF FUN

- Fun now, not fun memory e.g. a hangover, regretting something you said/did.
- Fun now, fun memory e.g. going to a pop festival, running a marathon, a good holiday
- Long lasting fun e.g. meeting up with old friends years later.
- Not fun now, fun memory e.g. studying, training for a sport event

4 SUGGESTED DISCUSSION FROM THE BIBLE:

There are many examples of people having fun in the Bible, for example, David dancing before the ark (2 Samuel 6. 12-15), Jesus at the wedding in Cana (John 2).

However, there are also examples of fun without restraint leading to less desirable outcomes. For example, Esther 1, Daniel 5.

John 10:10 – this verse suggests that there is a difference between what 'the thief' brings – his 'fun' leading to death and destruction – and what Jesus brings – life in all its fullness.

Sometimes, as Christians, we have to abstain from things others may think of as 'fun', in order to live how Christ wants us to.

See, for example:

- 1 Peter 4. 1-5
- Luke 18. 29-30

However, fun within the constraints God sets can lead to positive outcomes:

- Luke 15 - Party for the son's return
- Matthew 14 - Feeding the 5,000

5 FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Why has the church acquired the "NO FUN" image? (Do you agree it has? You might not!)

A few sentences of historical background. The Reformation - removing statues etc. → Puritan movement with negative attitude towards theatre etc. Victorian belief with much emphasis on hell and torture for some. Stress on the "beauty of holiness"

So, is it different today?

Can the group think of examples of where they have fun as Christians (let's hope they do!)

6 CHRISTIANS TODAY DO HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

But recognise that because they have dual citizenship they won't want to take part in certain activities