



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: The best way to always live in a place and position of joy is to pursue joy like Christ.

HEAD CHANGE: Joy comes in focusing forward.

HEART CHANGE: Joy comes through cultivating and expressing gratitude.

LIFE CHANGE: Joy comes by serving and loving others.

OVERVIEW

Joy No Matter What

Life never seems to go the way we imagine it will in our heads. No matter the effort we put into preparing our day-to-day lives, unforeseen circumstances can leave us feeling frustrated and losing our joy. Many of us have believed the lie that Christians won't have troubles. But Jesus tells us plainly in John 16:33, "...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We will have problems. The question is, what will we do when we face obstacles? Will we continue to pursue Christ and joy no matter what? Paul writes that we are to have the same mindset as Jesus. Jesus didn't deserve the pain He endured, yet He never once protested. Jesus came to bring people to His Father. When He left, He challenged us to do the same. As we choose to humble ourselves, live in a place of joy, all while taking on an attitude of gratitude; we point people toward our Father.

"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us"

-Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) -

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching and why?
2. In this season of life, is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit may be guiding you to give up so that you can experience more joy in your life?
3. What things have you been tempted to find joy in more than finding it in Christ?
4. Are there times and/or situations when you find it more difficult to find and keep your joy? Why is that?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, thank you for your joy that you have given me through the Holy Spirit. I pray that I will always have a heart of gratitude and thankfulness towards you and will always remember what you have done for me. Help me to always stay grateful for every bit of goodness, love, and kindness I receive from you and may those I encounter experience all of that from me as a result. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!