

# Joy



DISCOVERING JOY

THROUGH PHILIPPIANS



## LEADER'S GUIDE

**As we approach Christmas at Church Crawley, we are continuing to press into this season of JOY. This will be reflected in our Sunday preaching series, which will journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians, verse by verse.**



## **B I B L E**

### **Book of Philippians**

Our Huddles this term will follow our Sunday preaching series, exploring the fruit of Joy through the book of Philippians. As we read through a new section of Paul's letter each week, you may wish to incorporate different ways of reading scripture, such as Lectio Divina, which we focused on last term.

## **D I S C U S S I O N**

### **Deeper Reflection**

The aim of this content is to create space for deeper reflection and further discussion into the passages and themes covered in our Sunday talks. As Huddle leaders, your role will be to facilitate discussion, and draw out the thoughts, questions and wisdom from everyone in the group.

Each week, we would encourage you to ask the following questions:

**Know what? What are you learning through this?**

**So what? Why is it relevant to you?**

**Now what? What are you going to do in light of it?**

## **W O R S H I P & P R A Y E R**

### **Forms of Worship**

Alongside the content provided here, we would encourage you to incorporate some element of worship into your evening; whether that be sung or contemplative, live or online – and do make sure to leave plenty of time to pray as a group.

## **N O T I C E S**

### **Weekly updates**

Huddles are also one of the best ways to communicate news and updates to the church – so please do continue to make the sharing of notices a regular fixture!



## **H U D D L E   D A T E S   & T O P I C S**

### **November**

**Tues 7th Nov** – Huddles Encounter @  
Church – Philippians 2:1-11

**Tues 14th Nov** – Joy of Surrender

**Tues 21st Nov** – Joy that shines brightly

**Tues 28th Nov** – Joy in Identity

### **December**

**Tues 5th Dec** – Huddles Encounter

**Tues 12th Dec** – Joy to the World

**Tues 19th Dec** – Christmas Extraveganza



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# SESSION 8: JOY THAT SHINES BRIGHTLY

## SERIES OVERVIEW:

**“Joy. It’s not getting what you want; it’s appreciating what you have. Joy isn’t always the easiest choice or the obvious choice, but joy is a choice. The Apostle Paul said, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice!” And his life is louder than his words. Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from a prison cell. You can choose joy anywhere, anytime, anyway!”**





## OPENING DISCUSSION

- What has brought you joy this week?
- What has robbed your joy this week?

## READ: PHILIPPIANS 2: 12 - 14

**In this part of Paul's letter, Paul is focusing on how we are to live as Christians, in light of what we have learnt about joy so far.**

**He encourages us to 'work out our salvation': importantly, Paul isn't talking about having to 'work for' our salvation – rather, he is speaking of the out-workings of the Spirit alive and at work within us. For Paul, this is an all-in commitment to a life like Christ's.**

**Discuss: Looking back on your life as a Christian (however long or short that may be), what changes can you see in yourself as a result of knowing Jesus?**



**Paul speaks of a sense of healthy “fear and trembling” with which we should approach God and matters of our salvation. In this way, Paul is encouraging us to maintain a posture of reverence and humility, as we recognise the awe and wonder of God, and the gravity of what he has done for us on the cross**

**So that we “shine like stars”:**

- **As beacons of hope and navigation**
- **To illuminate the darkness of the world**
- **And reflect the light of Christ and the majesty of God**

## **P R A C T I C A L   A P P L I C A T I O N**

**Discuss:**

- **Are there things that concern or scare you about the culture and world around us?**
- **How do you think God is calling you and the Church to engage with those things?**



## PRAY TO END

**“Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”**

**God, thank you for giving me constant access to your presence. Because you are always with me, I can experience true joy at all times. Although the joy you give isn't based on my circumstances, I don't always live a life marked by joy. Too often, instead of trusting you, I let my problems dictate my reactions. Please forgive me. Fill me with your joy and peace, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit, I may abound in hope at all times. Help me to live a life marked by undefeatable joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

