

# Joy



DISCOVERING JOY

THROUGH PHILIPPIANS

## LEADER'S GUIDE

**As we step into a new term at Church Crawley, we feel called to press into a 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, across nine weeks.**

## **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**

### **September**

**Tues 12th Sept** – Huddles Vision Night @ Church

**Tues 19th Sept** –Huddle Social

**Tues 26th Sept** –Introduction to Joy

### **October**

**Tues 3rd Oct** –Huddles Encounter @ Church – Philippians 1:1-2

**Tues 10th Oct** – Philippians 1:3-21

**Tues 17th Oct** – Joy of Home

**Tues 24th Oct** – Philippians 1:19-27

**Tues 31st Oct** – Hunger for Joy

### **November**

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

**Tues 14th Nov** –Know what? So what? Now what?

**Tues 21st Nov** – Philippians 2:12-14

**Tues 28th Nov** – Joy in Identity

### **December**

**Tues 5th Dec** – Huddles Encounter @ Church – Philippians 2:25-30

**Tues 12th Dec** – Joy to the World

**Tues 19th Dec** – Huddles Christmas Party

# SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO JOY

## 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!”**



## **O P E N I N G   D I S C U S S I O N**

- **What does the word ‘joy’ mean to you?**
- **With the person next to you or as a whole group, share about a time when you have felt most joyful**

The theme of joy – and specifically of joy in the Lord – is found throughout scripture, both Old and New Testament. Throughout history, God’s people have rejoiced in response to God’s character, his blessing and his deliverance. Jesus brings joy to those who follow him and experience his healing and redemptive power. Scripture teaches us that joy is a gift from God, rooted in who He is, and that it is something to be celebrated and shared with others.

**R E A D :   P S A L M   6 6 : 1 - 1 2**

**Discuss: Is there a relationship between our joy and our worship?**

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

**On Sunday we thought about the joy of generosity. Why is generosity important in a life of Christian discipleship?**

**How might God be calling you to press into generosity in your life, with your time, talent and treasure?**

## P R A Y

**“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.**

