

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

SESSION 7: JOY OF SURRENDER

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!”



READ: PHILIPPIANS 2: 1-11

In Chapter 2 of his letter to the Philippians, St Paul is talking about the importance of being a united community; and behind unity and harmony in relationships is a heart attitude of humility and surrender. When we let go of control, insecurity, ambition and pride, we open ourselves up to experience the joy of unity.

Reflect: Can you think of a time where pride, ambition or insecurity have got in the way of loving relationship?

Discuss: In thinking about your own relationships with family, friends or church community, what do you think are the keys to unity and harmony?

Discuss: Does the call to unity mean we must always agree with others in the church? What wisdom does this passage provide on how to disagree well with others?

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

R E A D : P S A L M 3 7

Two weeks ago, Steve preached about the call – and joy – of letting go, and surrendering ourselves and our lives to Jesus.

Discuss:

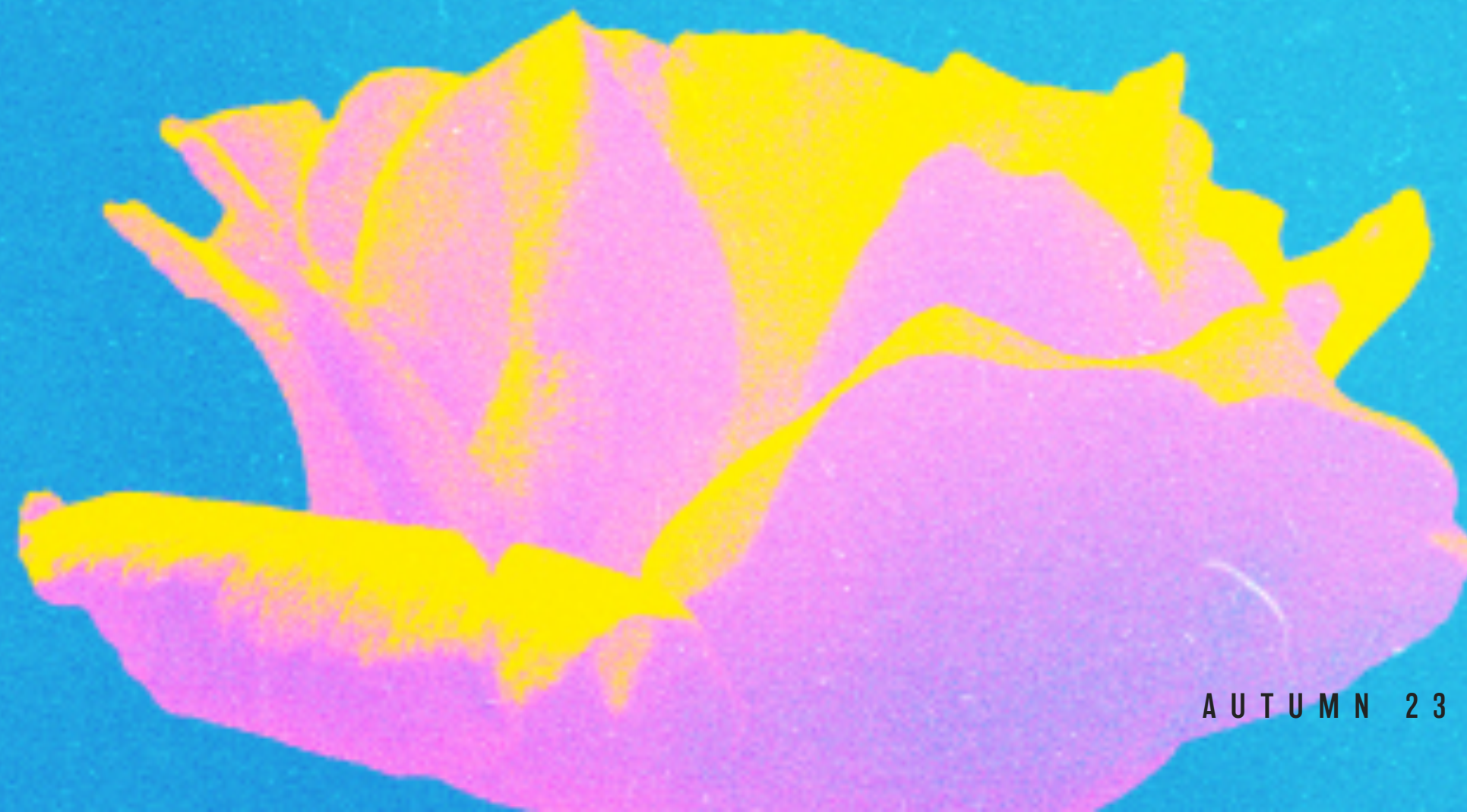
What do you struggle to let go of?

In what ways is Jesus calling you to follow his example of humility and surrender?

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.



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