

Joy



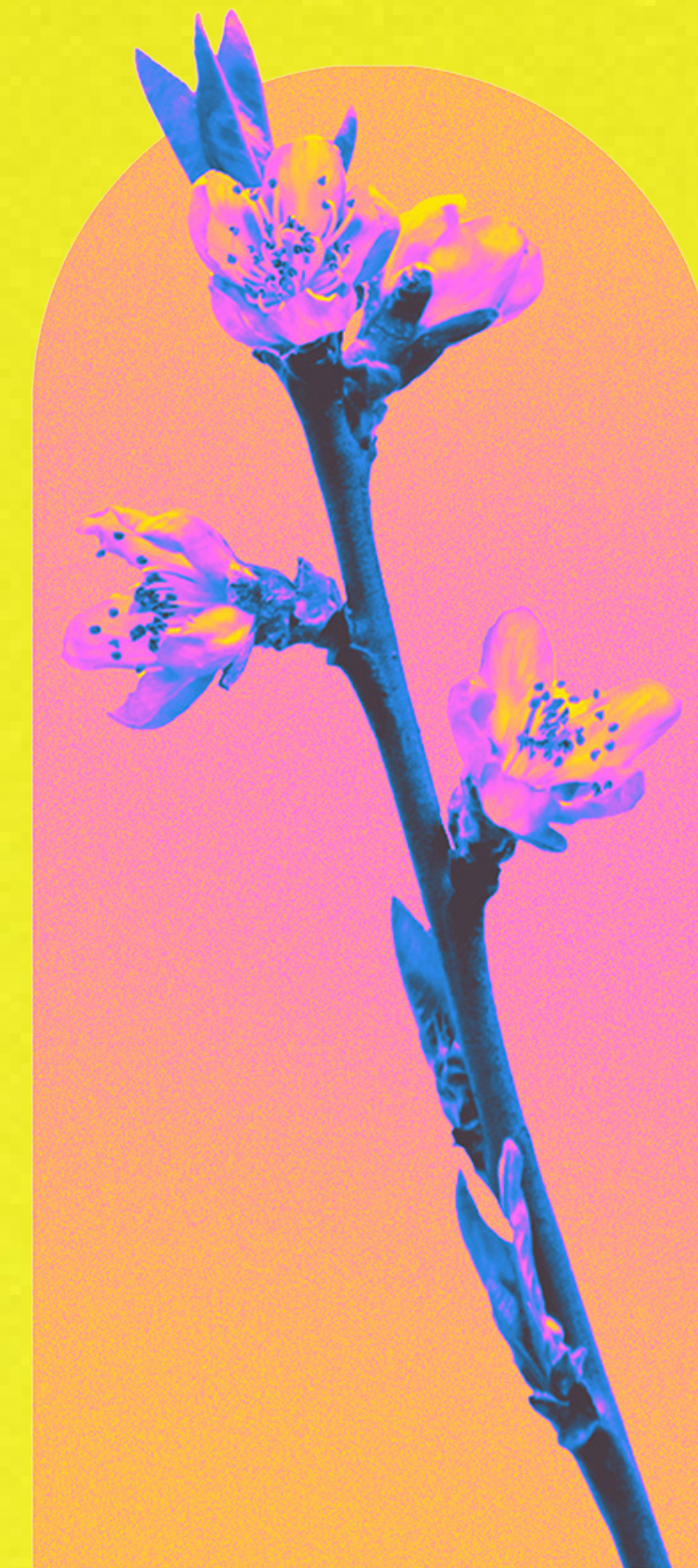
DISCOVERING JOY

THROUGH PHILIPPIANS

SESSION 13

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 3:1-11

Again and again, St Paul speaks of the joy which is to be found in the Lord and in relationship with Him, in order to “safeguard our faith” – to make it secure by putting it on a solid foundation.

Paul finds joy not in his history, accomplishments or self-righteousness – things that the world finds value in – but in knowing Christ.

Jerry Bridges, author of *The Discipline of Grace*, says “Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s grace.”

DISCUSS

Are you a self-confident person or a God-confident person? What things in your life are currently giving you confidence and purpose?

Paul was advising the church to be cautious about those who would distort the gospel of grace with additional conditions or requirements, such as circumcision; things that make salvation about our own human striving and effort.

DISCUSS

In thinking about your own life and faith, are there areas in which you are trying to get by in your own effort or strength, or where you feel like to have to earn God’s love and salvation?

P R A Y

Take some time to hand over to God those areas of your life in which you want to trust God more, instead of yourself.

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.