

Joy



DISCOVERING JOY

THROUGH PHILIPPIANS

SESSION 11

JOY OF ENCOUNTER

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 are your hopes for the New Year?

What are your hopes for this season of Encounter?

READ: 2 CHRONICLES 15:12-15

A PEOPLE OF PRAYER

“Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.” - Andrew Murray

As Christians, it's by being in intimate relationship with our loving Creator God that we can know and experience true, fulfilling joy. Prayer is the primary way that we experience and invest in our personal relationship with our Father in Heaven. When it comes to both of these things (prayer and relationship with the Father), Jesus is both our prototype and our pattern. As we look to Jesus' life, we see what it is to be a human empowered by relationship with God, through the Holy Spirit, in our identity as children of the Father. (Luke 3:21-22)

As God's people and as His Church, we are called to be a people of prayer; defined, shaped and sustained by our communion with God.

D I S C U S S

As honestly as you can, share the main reasons why you pray, and how you are finding prayer at the moment.

In what ways is God calling you/us to be more wholehearted in our relationship with Jesus and love for God?

Are there any practical changes, rhythms or practices that might help you to do this in your daily life, and particularly during Encounter?

R E A D : P S A L M 1 6

P R A Y T O E N D

Spend some time praying individually, asking for the joy and peace of his presence.

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.