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NEXT STEPS

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CROSSROADS PARK AVE CAMPUS



DAVE VANCE - LEAD PASTOR

OCTOBER 10, 2021

Joy-Full: Search for Joy Philippians 1, Acts 16 _____ – What are you ____ for? _____ – What are you ______ ? – What is 1. Joy is not discovered in our everyday _____ 2. Joy is not dependent upon your 3. Joy is not determined by your 4. Joy is the confident _____ of every detail of life and leads to the to God in every situation.

We live in a time where our pursuit of happiness seems elusive. We have become a culture filled with crushing sorrow and increasing frustration. As Christians, we can choose to join the parade of the disappointed, or we can press into the overwhelming joy we receive from knowing Christ. Joy is not based on our pursuits, feelings, or circumstances, but based upon the good news of Christ's gracious work in our lives. Joy is the unmistakable badge that we belong to God. ~Pastor Dave



For personal study, family study, or community group discussion

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Open:

Share a moment that you would describe as joyful. What made it so joyful for you?

Read:

Philippians 1; Acts 16; John 15-16

Discuss:

- 1. How is joy an unmistakable badge of Christianity? Have you experienced a sour, gloomy Christian? Have you ever been one? Share an example. How does joy differentiate us from unbelievers? Why should we be the most joyful people on earth?
- 2. How is the book of Philippians a perfect letter for an anxious, worried season? How often do words like joy and rejoice show up in the letter? Describe the context and experience of Paul that makes this letter even more unique. How could Paul have joy despite being imprisoned?
- 3. What made Philippi such a great city for the spread of the gospel? Read Acts 16. Describe the three characters that made up the start of the church in Philippi. How did the gospel come to each of them personally and uniquely? Different people need different approaches. How have you seen that in your own journey of faith?
- 4. Why was Paul imprisoned in Philippi? What do you make of Paul and Silas' reaction to being imprisoned (Acts 16:25)? How would you have responded? In what ways do we attempt to find joy without Christ? Define biblical joy: How is true joy greater than what we search for, how we feel, and what happens?
- 5. Read Philippians 1:1-3. How does Paul's description of "servant" and "saints" give us insight into his joy? How does knowing who we serve and knowing who we are help us live joyfully?
- 6. What are your greatest stumbling blocks to joy? What are some steps you can take right now to live a joyful life?

Pray:

Ask God to give you the confident assurance that He is in control of every detail of life. Pray that God would overwhelm you with His joy (not circumstantial or emotional, but deeply supernatural). Take a moment to praise God in whatever situation you find yourself.

Memorize/Meditate:

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11