



SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Jesus used culturally relevant stories to share timeless kingdom truths to lead people to God.**

### **We are designed to experience joy.**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

### **What we think influences what we say and how we act.**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)

### **Joy is unattainable if we allow circumstances to control us.**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:9-11 (NIV)

### **Separation from God prevents us from experiencing true joy.**

#### **Sin separates us from God.**

#### **Joy is not the opposite of sadness.**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

### **In Christ we have a completed mature joy that transcends understanding.**

#### **Complete joy is found when I fix my eyes on Christ.**



## MY NOTES

## RESOURCES

- Text for prayer (913) 297-9707
- Celebrate Recovery | [westsideleavenworth.com/care](https://westsideleavenworth.com/care) (For those facing a hurt, habit, or hang-up)
- Dealing with depression? | [westsidefamily.church/counseling](https://westsidefamily.church/counseling) or [thelyndoncenter.com](https://thelyndoncenter.com)



### STAY CONNECTED:

Download the Westside Leavenworth App in your App Store or visit [westsideleavenworth.com/app](https://westsideleavenworth.com/app)

### WAYS TO GIVE:

Westside Leavenworth App (*in your app store*)  
[westsideleavenworth.com/give](https://westsideleavenworth.com/give)  
text "WestsideLV" to (833) 254-5174



## TEACHING SUMMARY:

Joy is a state of being. Joy is something we all desire but not something that we can truly attain on our own.

We learn in Scripture that joy is not controlled by circumstances. Joy is given to us by Christ as we grow to become more and more like Jesus.

The joy we are given from Jesus is not temporary or circumstantial. The joy we are given from Jesus is endless as we remain connected to Him.

We know that our circumstances are never perfect. We know that our thoughts can drift into things not of God. As Christ followers, we also know that Jesus is perfect and unchanging and we can put our hope in Him, experience peace through Him, understand love through His actions, and live a life of joy because of who we are in Him.

## TALK-IT-OVER:

What circumstances in your life have you experienced the joy of Jesus even when circumstances were not joyful?

Why is it easy to look outside of Jesus to find solutions to a lack of joy? Do you need to repent for looking for joy outside of Jesus?

What is an area of your life that you need to give over to Jesus and look to Him for joy?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who do you need to tell?

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

- Day 1) Psalm 29:10-11
- Day 2) Psalm 85:9-11
- Day 3) Proverbs 3:1-18
- Day 4) Isaiah 9:6-7
- Day 5) Romans 14:16-18
- Day 6) Galatians 5:22-25