

SOLID ROCK

JOY

WEEK THREE

SERIES BIG IDEA:

God is generous and He wants me to excel in the grace of giving.

We experience God's joy when we do what is right, wise, and what honors Jesus.

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." ¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Nehemiah 8:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

God gives me true joy when I fully depend upon Him.

Being fully dependent on Jesus is a mindset with action.

Three mindsets that keep us from experiencing God's joy:

- **The Scarcity Mindset is that I don't have enough and there's not enough to go around.**

The lie: I depend on more to be happy or secure.

- **The Cynical Mindset is that I cannot trust others or God.**

The lie: My way is the right way or the best way.

- **The Entitlement Mindset is when my privileges become expectations.**

The lie: I deserve it, or I earned this all on my own.

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NIV)

I will give generously because:

- **I am fully dependent upon God to supply all that I need. (v6)**

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

- **I trust God that true joy is in my desire to give what I willfully decide to give. (v7)**

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WEEK THREE: JOY

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²⁰ We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. ²¹ For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

2 Corinthians 8:20-21 (NIV)

- **I am grateful for all that God has given me. (v8-9)**

My generosity expresses that I fully depend upon God.

I will experience true and lasting joy when I am fully dependent on God and express it in my generosity.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

God is generous, and His desire is for us to excel in the grace of giving and for us to experience the joy that comes from giving. All throughout scripture, there is a principle that people experience God's joy when they do what is right, wise, and what honors God. This is evident in the Old and New Testaments.

True joy is experienced when we fully depend on God. Being fully dependent is a mindset with practical action. However, there are some mindsets that hinder this joy: the Scarcity Mindset, the Cynical Mindset, and the Entitlement Mindset.

The Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 reinforces that generosity is the expression of our dependence, gratitude, and willful desire to trust God in all things.

Out of this mindset and action, we honor God and experience His joy. A cheerful giver is loved by God and blessed abundantly.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What motivates people to give?

In Nehemiah, how does the people's reaction to hearing the words of the Law illustrate the connection between doing what is right and experiencing God's joy?

Of the three mindsets mentioned in the teaching, which do you have the challenge to overcome (Scarcity, Cynical, or Entitled)?

How has the act of giving affected your sense of joy and fulfillment?

What is one next step you need to take today? Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Psalm 19:1-14 (7-8)

Day 2) Isaiah 26:16-19

Day 3) Psalm 95:1-7

Day 4) Acts 20:32-35

Day 5) Proverbs 11:23-25

Day 6) Ephesians 1:17-23