

Joy

December 13, 2020

Read

Read Philippians 4:4 and Romans 14:17.

Discuss

- What is one memory that makes you smile?
- In Philippians 4:4, Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" How is biblical joy different from our culture's idea of joy? Does Paul's command seem encouraging or burdensome? Why?
- What does it mean to be "in the Lord," and how does this affect the way you understand joy? Read Romans 14:17. What are the implications of joy being a foundational characteristic of God's kingdom?
- Do you think of God as "the most joyful being in the universe"? How does this affect your perception of God's character? If God is a source of abundant joy and we are in Him, then what does this mean for us? How have you experienced God's overflowing joy?
- How can the Holy Spirit help us recognize our spiritual reality and be joyful? How can you partner with the Holy Spirit to grow in experiencing God's joy?
- How can we celebrate and grieve at the same time? Have you experienced joy in the midst of a difficult circumstance before? How can you build times of intentional celebration into this Advent season?

Dig Deeper

For more on being "in" Jesus, read Galatians 3:26-29 and Romans 6:1-14. Here are some questions to get you started:

- What stands out to you from the text? What questions do you have?
- Follow Paul's logic in the Romans 6 passage. How have we died to sin? What does being "baptized into Christ" mean, and what is the result of this baptism? What is the result of being united with Jesus in His death?
- How does being in Jesus affect the way we live?

Pray

Praise God for his overflowing joy. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you see your spiritual reality of being in Christ.

Next Steps

1. Put aside some time this week to be alone with God and meditate on what it means to be in Jesus.
2. How can you share joy and help others flourish? Find an opportunity this week to share God's joy by serving someone else.
3. Celebrate during this season by joining your church community at the Drive Thru Nativity this Saturday, December 19!