



Title: REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

Main Scripture: Philippians 4:4

Can we really live with genuine joy?

We can experience genuine joy with God's help, with the help of others, and when we grow to help ourselves.

How can God help?

(Phil 4:4-7, 19-20, 1:6, 3:7-11)

How can other people help?

(Phil 1:3-5)

How can we help ourselves? Genuine joy takes risk.

Genuine joy is anchored in the bond of Jesus' love that He gives us, the belonging we experience in Jesus' family, and the development of joy skills in which we can grow.

Rejoice in the Lord Always - Philippians 4:4

June 15-16, 2024

The Small Group Sermon Study



Prayer: *Father God, thank You for Your Word and for Your joy. Thank You that Your Word is alive and active. Thank You that we have been able to study the book of Philippians. We pray that You will keep shaping our lives through Your Word and Your Holy Spirit. Lead us with Your joy as we meet now. Amen.*

Read Philippians 4:4 together. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything He wants to bring to mind as you begin. Listen and respond to His directions.

1. What did you like and appreciate about this message? What was something that you learned from this message?
2. How would you define rejoicing? Describe a time that you were rejoicing. Why was that special to you?
3. We are made to be a people of genuine joy. Do you think that is possible in our world today? Why or why not?
4. Pastor Craig shared that we can be a people of genuine joy with God's help. What promise from God makes you feel most connected to Him and most joyful? Why?
5. Who do you know that makes you rejoice? Why? What could you do to encourage them or thank them for being a joyful person in your life?
6. What good things do you see in each other? Spend time encouraging each other as a group.
7. Pastor Craig encouraged us to take risks so that we could grow ourselves in genuine joy. What are some examples of ways that risks are needed to grow in joy? What is one area that you need to risk in so that you can grow in genuine joy? What is an area that you as a group could risk together to grow in genuine joy?

Prayer and Reflection:

1. Pastor Craig shared that the Greek word for rejoicing is *Chairo*, and it means to be favorably disposed to the grace of God. Take some time to reflect on the fact that you are favorably disposed to the grace of God. What does that do to your heart?
2. Take some time as a group to ask Jesus to show you how He is rejoicing over each of you in your group. So, briefly listen in prayer for one person, open-handedly share how you sense Jesus is rejoicing over them, and then celebrate that with them. Repeat this prayer process so that everyone has heard the rejoicing messages of Jesus to them.

Prayer: *Father God, thank You for this time together with You and with each other. Please grow us to be people of genuine joy. We need Your joy in our lives. Your Word tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Please give us more of Your joy so that we can be strong in shining for You each day. In Jesus' name, amen.*