

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 12/10/2023

Psalm 98 Loyal and True: JOY

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- Hope and Peace make Joy possible.
 - It's a pink candle – it's brightly colored because joy is bright
- Header before verse 1 is "A Psalm" and it's the only one that has it
 - Psalm = a praise, literally to shine a bright light
 - Writer added the header probably to make sure we understand that he's writing a praise, he's writing about something to make you feel bright.
- Psalm 98 written in three stanzas:
 - Verses 1-3: God as Savior
 - Verses 4-6: God as King
 - Verses 7-9: God as Judge
 - We are to praise Him as all three and to find joy as we do.
- **Verses 1-2** Right Hand = power and unique specialness
 - New song – as we journey with Jesus we are called to something new; a fresh expression.
 - **What is Jesus doing in your life RIGHT NOW?**
 - Joy is found in the right now.
- **Verse 3** God has remembered. **How is your memory?**
 - God's nature is to remember. His promises are always true because He never forgets.
 - But God forgets our sins?????
 - God doesn't forget; He is all knowing, but He chooses to separate our sins from us
 - He chooses to not assign the sins he remembers to me
 - Through the filter of Jesus, He sees us as whole and right
 - God says, I see you through the lens of Jesus, not the lens of your sins.
 - **Knowing God CHOOSES to do this rather than just forget things like we do, do you feel more joy...more comfort?**
- **Verse 4-6** Shout for JOY. We were created to be noisy and disruptive about the work God is doing in our lives.
 - Joy is outward, joy and praise are connected.
 - Be noisy TO THE LORD!
 - When we are loud about what God is doing in our life, it's how we express our joy.
 - Instruments in OUR HANDS offer praise.
 - **Do you praise God out loud, when it's just you and God? If not, why? What's keeping you from starting?**
- **Verse 7** All creation in in GOD'S HANDS and shouts for joy and offers praise.
 - We as humans have a choice to praise or not. **Will you join the rest of creation?**
- **Verse 9** "It's not fair!" What is "fair" for our judgement by God is death and Hell.
 - Thankfully God is not fair, but He is right(eous)
 - God is incorruptible and righteous. Jesus cannot be bribed, there is nothing you can give Him that will sway Him, except your decision to follow Him.

Want to express JOY? What to do?

1. **Where is God moving in your life RIGHT NOW?**

2. **Speak praise to your Father in Heaven OUT LOUD. You were made to be noisy and disruptive. God is listening. You won't stay purple...you'll change to pink!**
3. **Share your joy. Consider writing a new song.**
 - a. **Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a new song. See Luke 1:46-55**

WHAT IS YOUR NEW SONG?