Faith Community Church
Rejoice
(Standing firm, Part 5)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide

🙏 **Opening Prayer**: Lord Jesus, You promised to return, but sometimes we get so caught up in the busyness of our lives, we lose sight of that hope. Revive our sight as we study together.

🧊 **Icebreaker**: Share one thing you are currently looking forward to (big or small). What about it brings a sense of anticipation or motivation?

🔑 Key Points

1. **Hope**. The second coming of Jesus gives us lasting hope because suffering, death, and sin will not have the final word.

2. **Joy**. Christian joy is a calm delight rooted in our relationship with Jesus and the certainty of His return, not in shifting circumstances.

3. **Crown**. Our greatest crown of rejoicing at Christ's return will be the people we have pointed to Jesus and helped grow in faith.

4. **Seeing Christ**. Every believer is called to live with expectant hope and abiding joy, knowing that someday we will be like Jesus, for we will see Him face to face.

💬 Discussion Questions

1. Did you identify a high place, keep the fire burning daily, or pray persistently for a Manasseh? Discuss these and your group "wholehearted love" event.

2. Paul repeatedly points the Thessalonians to the return of Jesus. How does keeping the second coming in view change the way we face present difficulties or discouragement? (Titus 2:11-14)

3. The sermon described hope as the difference between giving up and continuing to "tread water." Where have you experienced the sustaining power of hope in Christ, or where do you most need it right now? (Romans 5:3-5)

4. How would you explain the difference between happiness (based on circumstances) and the biblical joy that is a "calm delight"? (Psalm 73 - focus on vss 23-26)

5. In what practical ways can the promise "I will come again" produce steady joy even when life is hard or disappointing? Jude 24-25

6. Paul calls the Thessalonian believers his hope, joy, and crown of boasting. Whose crown might you be part of, and who might God be inviting you to invest in so they become part of yours? (2 Corinthians 3:1-6)

7. The sermon emphasized that our greatest legacy will be people, not accomplishments. How does this reorient the way we measure a "successful" Christian life? (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

8. One day faith will become sight and we will see Jesus face to face. How does that future reality encourage you to live more intentionally today? (Matthew 25:31-46)

🛠️ Practical Applications

1. **Hope**. Choose one current difficulty or area of discouragement and find one verse to deliberately rehearse the hope of Christ's return each day this week.

2. **Joy**. Practice moving from happiness to joy: when circumstances shift, pause and thank God specifically for the unchanging promises of Jesus' return and presence.

3. **Crown**. Identify one person you can pray for, encourage, or gently point toward Jesus this week—so that they might one day be part of your crown of rejoicing.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us an enduring hope, a consistent joy, and a crown of rejoicing. Thank you even more for the promise of seeing You face-to-face. May we live every day eagerly waiting for You. Amen.