

REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS

GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

JOY | 12.13.20

TALK IT OVER

MAIN POINTS

1. It's okay to be joyful and happy
2. Joy is our strength
3. We can choose joy

KEY SCRIPTURES

¹⁰“Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!”

Nehemiah 8:10

⁸You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9

³When the earth quakes and its people live in turmoil, I am the one who keeps its foundations firm.

Psalms 75:3

Select 1 or 2 questions from each section of this guide to lead your group or house church in a discussion. Feel free to adjust as needed. Each section is designed to follow each video segment of the message.

- **Video Section #1: Explore the Topic**
 - > Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking
- **Video Section #2: Explore what God says about the Topic**
 - > Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture
- **Video Section #3: Explore what we do with the Topic**
 - > Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps
 - > Pray it Out | Goal: Lift of prayers, petitions, and praises

Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking

- When was the last time you were truly joyful? Explain.
- If your level of joy was described like a geyser, what would your geyser look like? Would it be more like a Mud Pot or Old Faithful?
- What do you think it means when Pastor says, “Joy is something that starts under the surface and works its way up and out?”

Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture

- Has your joy ever faded because of something not going according to plan? If comfortable, explain.
- Can you blame Zechariah for doubting the angel Gabriel?
- Describe the difference between happiness and joy?
- **Read: Nehemiah 8:10;** ask, “What does it mean for the joy of the Lord to be our strength?”

Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps

- What step do you need to take this week to experience God's joy?
- How can you spread joy over the next week?
- Identify a person you can spread joy too this week.

Pray it Out | Goal: Lift up prayers, petitions, and praises

- Pray together:
- Take time to share prayer requests, and spend time praying for our church, community, country, and world. Help the members of your group to feel invited and cared for.