



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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July 15-21, 2024

Sermon Series: "Whatever Happened to Joy?"

Sermon: "Say it Again!" by Rev. Dr. Pete Moon

**Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.**

1. Reflect upon a time where you knew joy and felt it in a deep way.
2. Paul says that we are to "rejoice in the Lord always...." We can do so because "the Lord is near." We can also do that because "the peace of God...guards our hearts and minds." Paul goes as far as to say that because of this nearness and peace guard, we need not be anxious about anything. In the words of Dr. Phil, "How's that workin for ya?"
3. Do you find that the level of joy within you has increased or decreased as your life has progressed. Why or why not?
4. The sermon speaks of the increasingly elusive image of joy in our contemporary culture. Would you agree?

Monday, July 15: Read Philippians 1:1-11

This week we have a fabulous assignment – to focus on joy. We begin with a reading from Paul's "letter of joy" to the Philippians where his joy is evident in every sentence he writes. What may not be evident, however, is the fact that Paul writes this letter from prison. How, then, can he feel this way?

This question is the focus of our study this week – how we can live in perpetual joy that transcends all circumstances and understanding. We can begin by looking for clues within today's scripture. Notice what other words Paul uses in abundance. Thanks. Prayer. Affection. Partnership. Confidence. Grace. Love. Righteousness. Praise. In our search for joy, are we filling our hearts, minds, and words with these things, too?

➤ **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with others the difference between joy and happiness.*

Tuesday, July 16: Read Philippians 4:4-9

It is no secret that anxiety has become epidemic in our society, robbing so many of our children, youth, and adults of joy and peace. Our culture has never needed today's famous passage more. Notice Paul begins with rejoicing, rather than ending with it. We are to rejoice first, not after we've received what we wanted. We are to pray with thanksgiving along with petition, recognizing what has already been given to us before focusing on what else we need. We are to more fully recognize and focus on all that is pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Then peace will guard our hearts and minds beyond all understanding. Is this how we are structuring our days? What could change?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Spend today noticing new things that are beautiful, worthy, admirable, and pure in your everyday life and surroundings. Give thanks. Reflect on how this feels.*

Wednesday, July 17: Read Mark 1:14-15

These two short verses seem to contain so many contradictions. "After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news..." Wait, what? Shouldn't there have been a crisis, a committee, a period of mourning, or some drama? Our modern ears might also find a contradiction in Jesus's words, "Repent and believe the good news!" Don't we usually get offended when someone tells us we are doing something wrong? Where's the good news in that? Jesus' ministry may certainly seem to transcend understanding to our modern ears, and therein lies an important message. We can find good news and joy in being corrected and redirected in our lives. We can carry on in hope and joy despite pain, setbacks, and tragedy. When we recognize and embrace that the "Kingdom of God has come near," we can live in joy, hope, and peace that we are part of an incredible plan that has already been fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, through the grace of our loving God.

- **Discipleship and Relationship Opportunity:** *The next time you are given constructive feedback on your words or actions, say, "Thank you. How can I do better?"*

Thursday, July 18: Read James 5:7-9

Think of a time you were excitedly waiting for something great you knew was about to happen. Maybe it was Christmas Eve as a child. Perhaps it was the day before your family left for Disney World. Before the actual event happened, you were able to enjoy it because of your hope and faith that it was about to happen and it was going to be great! What if we lived every day like this? What if we all had the faith and patience of the farmer in today's reading, refraining from grumbling and waiting in joy for the land to yield its valuable crop in our lives and world?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Catch yourself whenever you're impatient for food and envision the farmers who patiently waited for the crop to yield. Apply this to other areas in your life.*

Friday, July 19: Read Psalm 100

When is the last time you shouted for joy? If it's been too long, let's change that. Our challenge today is to surround ourselves with more joyful encounters, then lay aside any self-consciousness and built-up filters that prevent us from shouting in joy. Let us all live every day "knowing that the Lord is good" and shouting for joy in proclaiming the goodness, faithfulness, and enduring love we have received!

- **Study Opportunity:** *Google the word "joy." What is your favorite image that comes up?*

Saturday, July 20: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 100:1

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth."

Sunday, July 21: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves, dismissing your joy. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*