



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

- 01** Print the PDF.
-or-
- 02** Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.
-or-
- 03** Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 Marks of a Disciple

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of May 29th // Conversation: June 4th

The Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about the fruit of the Spirit. This devotional is going to focus on Scripture you'll encounter on Sunday.

pray.

John 4:24 says, "For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." (NLT) We're studying scriptures that focus on one of the fruits of the Spirit - joy. Whenever you spend time in God's Word, it's a form of worship. Pray to Him right now and worship Him in Spirit by diving into His Word, which is truth. (John 17:17) Ask the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that God has said in His Word. (John 14:26)

To begin our devotional, we need to define the difference between **JOY** and **HAPPINESS**.

- **HAPPINESS** is an external emotion that expresses elation and is dependent upon your circumstances
- **JOY** is having contentment despite your circumstances.

observe.

Using different colors, mark the following keywords in the text that has been printed out for you below. Make sure you mark only 1 word at a time as you read through.

01 Mark any reference to God with a 

02 Mark any reference to Jesus with a 

03 Mark the word joy with a 

1 Chronicles 16:27 (ESV)

Splendor and majesty are before him (the Lord); strength and joy are in his place.

Hebrews 12:1b-2 (ESV)

. . . let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 15:13 (ESV)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

John 15:11 (NLT)

¹¹ I (Jesus) have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Psalm 28:7 (NLT)

The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Psalm 32:1 (NLT)

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

Psalm 33:12 (NLT)

What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

Hebrews 10:34 (NLT)

You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.



interpret.

01

A big help when interpreting what Scripture means is making lists. Since we focused on the word “joy”, let’s make a list of we learned from marking it in the Scripture above. Pay attention to where the joy comes from. Why does the author have joy?

JOY
Joy is in the Lord's place (1 Chron 16)

apply.

01 Have you ever found yourself in a difficult circumstance, but somehow were able to have joy in it? Write it out below. If you haven't personally experienced that in your walk yet, how could you hypothetically have joy based on what you learned from making your list above?

02 How can you use what you learned today to encourage someone else in your circle of influence? Is there anyone you can think of who needs joy today? How can you be a joy-bringer to them?

03 Is joy something we produce on our own? Why or why not?

bring it together.

Happiness is an emotion we feel based on our circumstances. When things are going well, we're happy.

Joy is very different. It's more of a state of being than an emotion. It's not dependent upon our circumstances. It's rooted in our relationship with Christ and our position in Him.

Joy is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by us. It's not like we try really hard to be joyful and it magically happens. It flows from allowing the Holy Spirit to have control in our lives and trusting in Him in all circumstances.

By remembering what we know to be true about God, we can be joyful even when things are anything less than. That's why it's so important to be in the Word regularly! The more you study the Word, the more you'll be able to bring it to remembrance during those trying times.

So, well done you for spending this time with your God!

connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 info@gtwy.church

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

 www.gtwy.church/groups

[we value your input. click or scan here to provide feedback](#)

