

Date of Sermon: July 19, 2020

Topic of Sermon: *Possessing Joy*

Main Passage: Matthew 13:44

BEFORE your group meeting:

- **Participate in Worship** in-person or online to hear the sermon you will be discussing.
 - You can also catch-up on YouTube or at https://www.foresthill.org/en/on_demand
- **Encourage your group members** to watch the sermon and take a closer look at the Scripture that is used.
- **Look over the questions** provided below and think through your own responses.
- **Plan your meeting.** The Dig Deeper section is great to use in your group discussion (if there's time) or you can send it out to your group members after the meeting for their personal devotion time.
- **Pray for the Spirit** to use your group discussion to encourage dynamic life in Christ in each of you.

What's the Big Idea?

We have the choice to focus on what God has done, is doing and will do for us.

Get Started

- How would someone describe you? Happy? Worried? Sad? Joyful?
- Do you struggle to with choosing joy in everyday situations?

If you have Story Cards and are meeting in-person, ask people which image brings them joy and why.

Dive into the Sermon

- In Psalm 30:5, we find that “joy comes in the morning.” **In the difficult places in life have you seen joy after sorrow? What has brought you joy in those times? How did you choose joy?**
- Isaiah 62:5, says “so your God will rejoice over you.” **What does this phrase mean to you?** The verse is talking about how a groom looks at a bride, so God will find great joy in his children. **How does this idea impact you? Are you encouraged?**
- Read Psalm 118:24. We have a choice to make each day. **How are you choosing joy each day? Are you taking steps to focus on the good, memorize scripture, serve other and practice gratitude? Which of these actions is easy for you? Which one is hard to do and why?**

Dig Deeper into a Scripture Passage

Use the HEAR Bible Reading Method to learn more what the Bible teaches us about joy.



Bible-Reading Tip: Begin by asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Paul writes that the Spirit – who lives inside everyone who believes in Jesus – knows the depths of God and reveals Him to those who follow Jesus. So, always begin your time of reading the Bible with a prayer for Him to open your eyes and ears to what He will reveal. This doesn't mean that you will always have an emotional encounter or a special revelation, but you are acknowledging that He is that One through whom all wisdom is revealed.

Matthew 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.”

HEAR Bible Reading Method

HIGHLIGHT the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

EXPLAIN the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

APPLY the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God's power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

RESPOND to the passage

- Talk to God about what you've seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.