

**Date of Sermon:** July 12, 2020

**Topic of Sermon:** *The Supreme Source of Joy*

**Main Passage:** 1 Peter 1:6-9

## **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](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?**

Joy is the product of a plan to restore our souls, our relationship to God and our future.

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## **Get Started**

- Who is the most joyful person you know?
- Is being joyful the same as feeling happy? How are they similar? How are they different?

*If you have Story Cards and are meeting in-person, ask people which card best represents joy to them and why.*

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## **Dive into the Sermon**

- In Galatians 5:22 joy is listed as fruit that comes from the Holy Spirit. Fruit grows when a seed is placed in the right conditions with sun, water, etc. **What conditions are needed to grow joy in your life? Are there things you can do to increase joy in your life or is it completely a work of the Spirit?**
- Nehemiah 8:10 says “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” **What does this phrase mean to you?** In Nehemiah 9, the people are praising the Lord and naming who He is and all He has done for them. Read Nehemiah 9:17. **What do you learn about God from this verse? How does knowing who God is result in joy and also in strength?**
- Read Philippians 4:4-9. Rejoicing is turning joy into an action. **What are habits from this passage that can help you rejoice? What are some truths in this passage that can help you rejoice?**

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**Dig Deeper** into a Scripture Passage

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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.

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**1 Peter 1:6-9**

You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials <sup>7</sup> so that the proven character of your faith— more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire— may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**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.