

Date of Sermon: July 26, 2020

Topic of Sermon: *Joy in Fellowship/Community*

Main Passage: Acts 2:42-47

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?

The proper setting for “unstoppable joy” is in Biblical community.

Get Started

- Describe a time when you experienced joy in community with others.
- What are some ways you have brought joy to others?

Dive into the Sermon

- From the passage in Acts 2, Jonathan Scott mentioned that the early church had 4 priorities (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread together and prayer). **Which of these brings you the most joy and which one is most lacking in your life?**
- Jonathan indicated that those 4 priorities brought about 4 impacts resulting in joy. (Filled with awe, shared possessions, diligent single-minded gathering and joy expressed in sincerity) **Have you ever experienced community like that described in the Acts 2 passage and by Jonathan? In what ways? Do you think that type of community is still possible today? Why or why not?**
- Read Phil. 2:1-8. **It seems to indicate that it is available to all who follow Jesus. What keeps us from community like this?**
- Read 1 John 1:1-4. **What might be some outcomes as a community of followers of Jesus if this passage characterized our lives?**

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.

Psalm 133:1 (CSB)

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers (& sisters) live together in harmony (community).”

Additional Scriptures: John 17:20-23; Philemon 1:4-7

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.