

Date of Sermon: August 2, 2020

Topic of Sermon: *Joy in Tribulation*

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
- **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?

Jesus is both the *Model* and the *Means* of enduring Joy.

Get Started

- Can you think of a time in your life where you experienced Joy in the middle of hardship, pain or extreme testing?
- What is it about trials that make them so challenging?

Dive into the Sermon

- In Hebrew 12:1-3, the writer calls the readers to run hard the race that is before them, casting off all hindrances or things that weigh us down while we consider Jesus as our example. **How did Jesus run his race with perseverance? How did he embrace suffering, casting aside distractions? What was the prize he kept his eye on during his "race"?**
- Jonathan said Joy in suffering is not the goal, but a byproduct of living a life rooted in Jesus. **What does this phrase mean to you?** Read James 1:2-4. **What does James reveal about the suffering/trials we face?**
- "Joy is not the absence of tribulation and pain, but the triumphant affirmation of the presence. **Where have you seen God's presence, power, or promises in the midst of your sufferings or someone close to you?** To go back to the Hebrews passage, **what is something that is slowing you down in your race?**

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.

1 Peter 1:6-9

You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ 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.