

Date of Sermon: August 9, 2020

Topic of Sermon: *Joy through Obedience*

Main Passage: John 15:9-12 and James 1:22-25

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?

Obedience is the response to JOY and the requirement of BLESSING.

Get Started

Think about a gift that you have received recently. What was it and how have others been able to experience that gift of yours? What is it like for you to share it with others?

What is something you have done recently where you were hesitant to do at first, but you were glad you did it? Was it an activity you did, a conversation you had with someone, or something else? What advice would you give someone facing the same hesitancy as you?

Dive into the Sermon

Joy leads to a response of obedience. Jason said that this is what he loves about the Christian faith, "Grace always go first." How does grace make Christianity different from all other religions in the world in that people don't obey to earn favor from God, but obey out of a response to the grace of God?

Obedience leads to an outcome of blessing for ourselves and others. Jason said as we read and aim to do God's Word, "What is the one thing that you have been hearing but not doing?" This is not to bring guilt on our lives, but to inspire us to respond in obedience to God. "What impact would obedience in that one thing have on you and others around you?"

Obedience leads to more joy—even in the hard times. As you reflect on this series on Joy, what are some truths of God that you want to remember always as you walk through the circumstances of your life? What encouragement do you want to share with others about Joy?

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.

John 15:9-12

9 “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. 12 This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.”

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does.

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.