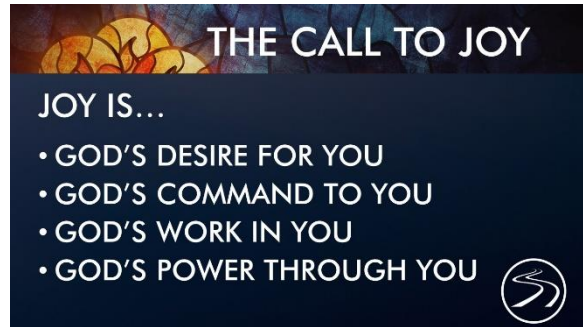


The Call to Joy

January 3, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



Questions:

1. Describe a season of your life in which you were especially happy. What factors made that season special?
2. The sermon examined some basic truths about joy. Review the points in the outline above. What stood out to you in the sermon? Do you have any questions about it?
3. Read Isaiah 61:1-11 (this is a prophecy about the Messiah given 700 years before Jesus came)
 - a) What elements of joy do you see in this passage?
 - b) What are the reasons for the joy?
 - c) In what ways has Jesus fulfilled this prophecy?
 - d) Do these truths cause you to be more joyful? Why or why not?
4. Read Luke 15:3-10
 - a) According to Jesus, what would a typical shepherd's reaction be to finding a missing sheep? And how would a woman respond to finding a missing valuable coin?
 - b) How does this relate to the reaction in heaven when one sinner repents?
 - c) Why do you think the angels in heaven react this way to our salvation?
 - d) What does this tell us about how we should react when someone turns to faith in Christ?
5. Read Luke 15:11-24 (the Prodigal Son story)
 - a) Who does the father in this parable represent?
 - b) How does he respond when his son returns to him?
 - c) What does this tell us about God's heart for those who are wandering far from him?
6. Read Psalm 51:12-13
 - a) What should we do if we have forgotten the joy of our salvation?
 - b) Once that joy is restored in our lives, how can it affect the lives of those around us?
7. Pray for each other that you would be full of the Holy Spirit and joy. And pray for any specific needs in your group.