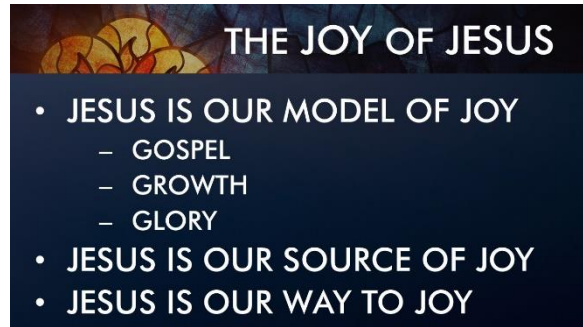


## The Joy of Jesus

### February 7, 2021 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. When was the first time that you can remember feeling really close to God? What was happening in your life at the time? Did you experience joy as a result? Or another emotion?
2. The sermon examined what made Jesus joyful and how we can also be joyful through him. Review the points in the outline above. What in the sermon stood out to you? Do you have any questions?
3. Read Hebrews 12:1-3
  - a) According to this passage, Christians are running a race. What are the things we should do to successfully reach the finish line?
  - b) What do you think the joy was that was “set before” Jesus?
  - c) What did this joy help him do?
4. In Luke 18-19, Jesus and his disciples are traveling to Jerusalem. They probably thought that he was going to be crowned king there. They had no idea that he would instead be crowned with thorns and nailed to a cross.
  - a) Read Luke 18:31-34. What did Jesus say would happen to him in Jerusalem?
  - b) What ray of hope was included in Jesus’ words?
  - c) Why couldn’t the disciples understand?
5. Read Luke 18:35-43
  - a) What steps did the blind man take that led to his eventual healing?
  - b) Who rebuked the blind man? What did they think was more important than helping him?
  - c) What was the blind man’s response to this opposition?
  - d) What do you think was on Jesus’ mind as he approached Jerusalem? Why do you think he took the time to stop and talk to the blind man?
  - e) What can we learn from the blind man?
  - f) How did God use the blind man in the lives of others?
6. Read Luke 19:1-10 (where Jesus is now getting closer to Jerusalem). What similarities does this story have with the previous story about the blind man? What differences does it have?
7. Think about Jesus’ encounters with people on the road to Jerusalem (after telling his disciples about what would happen to him there). How might this relate to the words in Hebrews 12:2 about Jesus enduring the cross “for the joy set before him”?
8. Pray together that God would supply a deep joy in your lives that helps you to persevere. Pray that God would give you eyes to see those in need around you (like the blind man and Zacchaeus). And pray for any specific needs in your group.