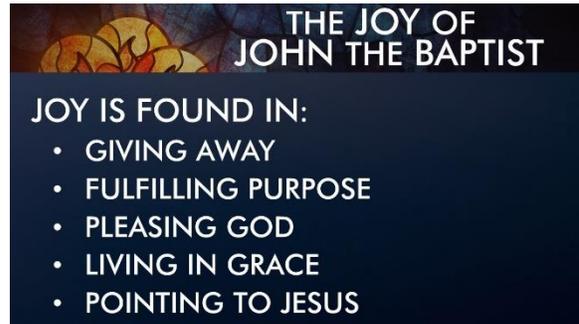


## The Joy of John the Baptist January 31, 2021 Discussion Notes

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. Growing up, did you ever experience being popular for a while and then losing that popularity (maybe from switching schools, losing a group of friends, etc.)? What happened and how did you deal with it?
2. The sermon examined the way John the Baptist experienced joy even as he lost his popularity. Review the points in the outline above. What in the sermon stood out to you? Do you have any questions?
3. Read 2 Kings 7:3-11 (the context of this story is that in the days of Elisha the prophet, the city of Samaria was put under siege and its people were starving)
  - a) How do you think these four men felt when they made their big discovery?
  - b) What was their first instinct?
  - c) What did they later realize? (see v. 9)
  - d) Imagine the joy they felt when they discovered the abandoned tents of the Arameans. Now imagine the joy they felt when they became instrumental in saving the people of their city. Which joy do you think was greater and why?
  - e) Why do you think many Christians struggle with keeping God's blessings and good news to themselves?
4. Read Acts 2:42-47 where we see a description of the beginnings of the Christian church.
  - a) Where do you see joy in this passage?
  - b) Where do we see Gospel, Growth, and Glory? (Gospel = God's word spreading; Growth = God's people maturing; and Glory = God's name exalted)
  - c) Which of the church activities described in this passage can happen today with online church? Which ones require meeting together in person?
5. Read Psalm 122:1-4
  - a) What was David glad about?
  - b) Why was he glad? What did he look forward to doing?
  - c) Now read Psalm 122:5-9. What things was David hoping for and asking for prayer about?
  - d) What are "thrones of judgment" (v. 5) and why are they important? How might they contribute to peace in the city?
  - e) Now think about our church. In what ways should David's desires in this Psalm be our desires for BCC?
  - f) We are planning to resume Sunday morning worship services in February under the new tent. What are your feelings about this? How much do you resonate with David's words: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'"? What are you looking forward to about worshiping together again on Sunday mornings?
  - g) What are you not looking forward to about Sunday in-person meetings? Talk openly about this with your group and then hand your concerns over to the Lord.
6. Pray together for our worship services to be filled with gladness, that our church leaders would make wise decisions, and for the peace of BCC. Pray for the Holy Spirit's help in joyfully sharing Christ with others. And pray for any specific needs in your group.