



JOY

READ James 1:1-7

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

- ☺ How do you define joy?
- ☺ How is it possible to have true joy while in the midst of a trial?
- ☺ When was the last time your faith was tested?
- ☺ Describe a follower of Jesus that is mature and complete.
- ☺ When was the last time you asked God...Why? Why am I going through this?
- ☺ What ended up happening?



READ 1 John 5:12-13

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- ☺ One of the sneakiest ways that our enemy tries to trip us up is by making us question or doubt our salvation.

ICE BREAKERS

- ☺ What was the longest you ever went without sleeping? What's the story behind it?
- ☺ What is an unusual fear that you have?
- ☺ If you are at the zoo, what kind of animal do you enjoy watching the most? Why?



REVIEW from last week.

READ Galatians 5:19-23

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- ☺ What are the fruits of the flesh?
- ☺ What are the fruits of The Spirit?
- ☺ Explain how joy can be a characteristic from the fruit of love?



- ☺ Is it possible to know beyond a doubt that you are saved?
- ☺ How can being secure in the fact that you are saved bring you joy?
- ☺ What does living a life secure in our salvation look like?

READ Psalm 16:11

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

- ☺ What's an example of a way God is your hope?
- ☺ Have you ever asked God to *give* you joy?
- ☺ Can you remember a time when it didn't make sense that you were joyful, but you were able to have joy because of God?
- ☺ Do you think it's truly possible to have joy, no matter what?

hope

NEXT STEPS

- ☺ Share one small "next step" that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.
- ☺ Take action this week to write down ways you see God on display in your life.
- ☺ Pray that God would put you in the path of someone with whom you can share your true joy.
- ☺ Remember that joy is not found in stuff, but in the finished work of Christ. Ask God to remind you of that this week.



FRUIT OF THE
SPIRIT IS...
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