



Joy Wins
Pastor Dino Rizzo 04.28.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Deuteronomy 28:45-48, NIV]

⁴⁵ All these curses will come on you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the Lord your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you. ⁴⁶ They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, ⁴⁸ therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

[Nehemiah 8:10, NIV]

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

[Isaiah 9:2-3, NIV]

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

[Romans 14:17, NIV]

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. . .

Joy does not happen by chance but by choice.

Define Joy:

J - Jesus First

O – Others

Y – Yourself

[Hebrews 12:1-2, NIV]

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Key Points:

Define Joy:

- J - Jesus First
- O – Others
- Y - Yourself

Applications for the Week:

This week, pray and ask God to increase His joy in your life. Receive the joy of the Lord to strengthen you. Make Jesus first in your life, look for opportunities to bring God's joy to others, and see what God will do in and through you.

Discussion Questions

1. What helps us win, succeed, or flourish? In other words, how can we enjoy the journey?
2. According to Deuteronomy 28, what conditions or consequences come from obedience, or lack thereof, to God?
3. How is joy connected to a flourishing life and relationship with God?
4. What are some things that can steal our joy?
5. What is the difference between joy and happiness? How do you choose joy during difficulty?
6. When we serve God joyfully, what happens to our challenges and opposition?
7. Pastor Dino said, "Joy does not happen by chance but by choice." Share a time that you chose joy in a difficult situation. What did you experience as you trusted God?
8. Joy is in the giving, not always the getting. How have you seen this to be true?
9. Where can you personally infuse joy this week and build and change the atmosphere?
10. There's always someone struggling around us. How can Jesus' model of service encourage us to meet the needs of those around us?