

Joy
Pastor Tosha Zwanziger
6.21.2020

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

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.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the
questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.
Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***“If any of you have lost the JOY of the Lord, I pray you do not
think of it as a small loss.” – Charles Spurgeon***

***The joy of the Lord is not the pleasure of an easy life; it's the
exhilaration of being right with the Lord.***

[Psalm 16:11]

You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

If we've lost joy, we need to reclaim it!

[John 15:11]

***“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My
love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,
just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His
love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain
in you, and that your joy may be full.”***

The key ingredient to living in the fullness of JOY is fellowship
with Jesus.

[1 John 1:5-8]

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

[1 John 1:6]

⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

[1 Peter 1:8, AMP]

⁸ Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not even see Him now, you believe and trust in Him and you greatly rejoice and delight with inexpressible joy.

How to have fellowship with Jesus—

1. Repent!

***Romans 3:23** “all have sinned and continually fall short of the glory of God”*

2. Put Jesus at the center.

3. Meditate on the Word of God.

[Hebrews 4:12]

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

4. Wait on the Lord.

[Isaiah 40:31]

“Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”

FOR MONDAY—

- 1. Write a list of things that produce joy versus just happiness.**
- 2. Spend time in fellowship with Jesus: repenting, prioritizing Jesus at the center of your life, meditating on His Word, or even simply waiting.**

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1. Where does happiness come from? What’s the difference between joy and happiness?**
- 2. In a season of many external restrictions, what does a full life look like?**
- 3. On a scale of 1 to 10, where is your current joy level? What are some helps or hindrances?**
- 4. How would you describe “fellowship with Jesus?”**
Considering the four strategies Pastor Tosha shared, which can you improve?
- 5. How is it possible to walk close with God? Why would some believe it’s not?**
- 6. Why do you think some people are unaware of their condition, of their joy level? What would produce a healthier perspective?**
- 7. Who reminds you that God is not through with you yet? How do they convey that?**
- 8. Pray for the joy of the Lord to be noticeable in your life.**