

JOY WITHOUT LIMITS



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

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“I’ve Got The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down In My Heart!!!!”

Text: **Philippians 4:4**

Introduction: Do you remember the VBS song, “I’ve Got The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy... Down in My Heart”? We need that today! All of us! Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” God goes to great lengths to provide us with great joy. We need to consider some reasons why God wants Christians to rejoice. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. God Gives Victories

Romans 8:28

Matthew 28:18-20

Romans 8:31

Hebrews 13:5

Psalms 37:5

Deuteronomy 31:6

II. God Gives His Word

II Timothy 3:16-17

Psalms 119:103

Psalms 1:1-3

Psalms 119:140

Psalms 119:97

Psalms 119:162

III. God Gives His Son

John 3:16

John 15:11

Romans 3:23

Hebrews 12:2

I John 1:7

Matthew 23:4

IV. God Gives Abundant Life

John 10:10

Galatians 2:20

I Corinthians 3:21-23

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 25:14-30

John 1:12

V. God Gives Prayer

I Peter 3:12

Ephesians 3:20

James 4:2

I Thessalonians 5:17

Philippians 4:13

James 5:16

Conclusion: This dream can become a reality! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink? In this series we will notice dozens of ways we can find true joy.

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LESSON #1: "The Joy of Adversity"

Text: James 1:2-3

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." However, what about when the storms of life overtake us? What happens when we face adversity? Does God still promise that we can have joy everlasting? In this particular lesson we will focus on the joy of adversity. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Financial Problems Should Not Hinder Your Joy

Ecclesiastes 10:19

Luke 12:15

I Thessalonians 4:11

Proverbs 23:5

Proverbs 27:1

II Corinthians 8:1-4

II. Health Problems Should Not Hinder Your Joy

John 14:1-6

James 1:27

II Corinthians 12:9

Philippians 4:6

Psalms 34:18

Proverbs 17:22

III. Marital Problems Should Not Hinder Your Joy

Psalms 16:11

Psalm 95:2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Philippians 4:4

I Peter 3:1-9

Ephesians 5:21-33

IV. Spiritual Problems Should Not Hinder Your Joy

Romans 10:17

John 8:24

Luke 13:3, 5

Matthew 10:32

Mark 16:16

Revelation 2:10

Conclusion: **Isaiah 63:9** says, "In all their affliction He was afflicted." This is why I am so glad that I have a High Priest that understands my weaknesses (**Hebrews 4:15**). No matter the ache, pain, or trial, my God knows and He sympathizes. Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! What can you do to find joy in adversity?

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LESSON #2: "The Joy of Belief"

Text: **Ephesians 4:5**

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." What happens when we face doubt and trials? Is faith your default? Or is it fear? In this particular lesson we will focus on the joy of belief. There is only ONE faith (our belief system). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. When We Believe We Are Alive

F.A.I.T.H. = Forsaking All I Trust Him

F = **Matthew 10:35-39, Matthew 16:24, Mark 10:29**

A = **Mark 10:17-27, Luke 14:33, Romans 12:1-2**

I = **Luke 1:37, Romans 10:17, Philippians 4:13**

T = **II Corinthians 1:9-11, II Corinthians 3:4-6, Hebrews 11:1, 6**

H = **John 3:16, Philippians 2:19, I Timothy 4:9**

II. When We Believe We Are Active

Our belief is proven through a personal faith (**Mark 8:34**).

Our belief is proven through a public faith (**Mark 8:35**).

Our belief is proven through a preserving faith (**Mark 8:36**).

Our belief is proven through a passionate faith (**Mark 8:37**).

Our belief is proven through a professing faith (**Mark 8:38**).

III. When We Believe We Have Assurance

Hebrews 11:1

Romans 10:17

John 3:16-17

II Corinthians 5:7

Hebrews 11:6

James 2:14-26

Conclusion: We have a God who has done all that He can to prove He exists and that He loves us. We need to have faith in Him. Our faith will bring us joy! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! What can you do to find joy in belief?

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LESSON #3: "The Joy of Courage"

Text: Deuteronomy 31:6

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." We need Christian soldiers that are not afraid to stand up for what they know is right. The Bible has many good characters that exemplify a life of courage. Let's study about them together...

Discussion:

I. We Need Courage Like Abraham

He left his hometown and his family (**Genesis 12**).

He saved the household of Lot (**Genesis 18**).

He was willing to sacrifice his precious son (**Genesis 22**).

II. We Need Courage Like Micaiah

He was hated by Ahab (**I Kings 22:8**).

He mocked king Ahab (**I Kings 22:15**).

He rebuked the king (**I Kings 22:17**).

III. We Need Courage Like Esther

She listened to Mordecai (**Esther 4**).

She went before the king (**Esther 5**).

She stood up to Haman (**Esther 7**).

IV. We Need Courage Like Jesus

He stood toe to toe with the devil (**Matthew 4**).

He rebuked the Pharisees & Sadducees (**Matthew 23**).

He defeated death (**I Corinthians 15**).

Conclusion: Cowardice robs Christians of joy. Sometimes you have to take risks for the truth. Joy will come when we find ourselves more committed to God and the cause of Christ. Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! Will you be afraid?

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LESSON #4: "The Joy of Dependence"

Text: Romans 8:31-39

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." What makes independence and freedom desirable? God really wants us to learn how to be more dependent, not independent. Do you depend on Him? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. God Is Competent

Moses knew God could fight battles (**Exodus 14:13-14**).

Nehemiah knew God could fight battles (**Nehemiah 4:20**).

Jesus knew God could fight battles (**John 12:50**).

Peter knew God could fight battles (**Acts 12:5-7**).

Paul knew God could fight battles (**Acts 18:14-15**).

II. God Is Confident

He tells us to have faith (**Psalms 5:11**).

He tells us to be prepared (**Ephesians 5:15**).

He tells us to take action (**Ephesians 6:11**).

He tells us to face our enemy (**I Corinthians 16:13**).

He tells us to forget our problems (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

III. God Is Consistent

The Lord provides success (**Hebrews 11**).

The Lord provides salvation (**Psalms 9:13-14**).

The Lord provides stability (**Matthew 28:20**).

The Lord provides security (**Hebrews 13:5**).

The Lord provides strength (**Romans 8:31**).

Conclusion: Don't ever give up on God. We need to learn to trust in Him. He knows what's best. Let's become less independent and more dependent! Give God control of your life!

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LESSON #5: “The Joy of Discipline”

Text: Hebrews 12:5-6

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” But what happens when we face the wrath of God? What happens when we make mistakes? Christians should improve when God disciplines us. How does He discipline us? What can we learn? Let’s study together....

Discussion:

I. Verbal Discipline

- The Power of the Tongue (**James 3:1-2**)
- The Potential of the Tongue (**James 3:3-6**)
- The Problem of the Tongue (**James 3:7-8**)
- The Possibilities of the Tongue (**James 3:9-12**)

II. Moral Discipline

- Christians Should Cultivate Morality (**Galatians 5:17**)
- Christians Should Consider Morality (**I Corinthians 10:13**)
- Christians Should Control Morality (**I Corinthians 9:27**)
- Christians Should Commend Morality (**Proverbs 6:6-11**)

III. Spiritual Discipline

- Self-Control Reflects the Spirit of God (**Galatians 5:23**)
- Self-Control Reveals Spiritual Maturity (**II Peter 1:6**)
- Self-Control Resembles Spiritual Leadership (**I Timothy 3**)
- Self-Control Regulates Spiritual Strength (**Proverbs 16:32**)

Conclusion: Clearly God understands life. He created it. He understands us. He created us. As a loving father corrects his children, our loving Father corrects us (**Hebrews 12:5-6**). Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! But we have to be disciplined in order to better appreciate God’s blessings. A disciplined life not only brings joy, it also opens doors to new horizons. Give God control!!!

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LESSON #6: "The Joy of Encouragement"

Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." One of the greatest privileges a Christian has is to be surrounded by a supportive and encouraging church family. Encouragement is part of our ministry! In today's lesson we are going to see who needs encouragement and what we can do to make sure they receive it. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. Who Needs Encouragement?

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Our Missionaries & Ministers (Acts 11:23) | Those Waiting For Jesus (I Thessalonians 4:18) |
| Those Suffering From Conflict (Acts 15:32) | Those in Our Community (I Thessalonians 5:11) |
| Those Suffering in Sorrow (Ephesians 6:21-22) | The Fainthearted & Weak (I Thessalonians 5:14) |
| Those Suffering From Persecution (Colossians 4:8) | Working Christians (II Thessalonians 3:12) |
| Christians in the Assemblies (Hebrews 10:25) | Older Members (I Timothy 5:1-2) |
| Our Relationships & Friendships (Hebrews 13:3) | Younger Members (Titus 2:1-18) |

II. How Can We Give Encouragement?

- #1 - Care for People (**John 15:12, Romans 12:10**)
- #2 - Circumvent Obstacles (**Matthew 22:39, Romans 13:8-10**)
- #3 - Cautious Words (**Proverbs 12:25, 15:4, 16:24, 18:21, 25:11**)
- #4 - Complete Openness (**Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 5:18-20**)
- #5 - Commit to the Cause (**Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16**)
- #6 - Compliment Character (**Romans 16:1, I Corinthians 4:17, Colossians 4:8**)
- #7 - Create a Positive Atmosphere (**I Thessalonians 4:9-12, Ephesians 4:11-16**)

Conclusion: Are you ready to drink from the well? Are you ready to receive some encouragement? Are you ready to encourage others with a decision to commit your life fully to the Lord's kingdom? God is willing to give you the courage if you'll only take the first step! Remember the Lord loves you and He is with you always!!!

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LESSON #7: "The Joy of Evangelism"

Text: I Peter 3:15-16

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." The greatest reason to rejoice in Christ is to know that you are saved! And if you are saved you need to share the message of salvation with others. How can we teach our neighbors about Christ? How can that lead us to joy? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Know That You Are Saved

I John 5:13-18

Romans 8:1-31

Acts 22:1-21

Romans 10:14-17

Acts 2:38-39

Mark 16:15-16

II. Grow In The Knowledge of Christ

Ephesians 3:17-19

II Peter 3:18

Ephesians 4:15-16

Colossians 1:6-7

I Corinthians 13:11

Colossians 3:16-17

III. Glow in the Image of Jesus

Matthew 5:14-16

John 8:1-12

Colossians 1:15

John 9:1-41

II Corinthians 3:18

John 11:1-44

IV. Throw Aside Your Fears

Isaiah 41:10

II Timothy 1:7

Romans 8:15

Hebrews 12:1-2

Luke 12:32

Matthew 4:19

V. Go Into All The World

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15-16

I Peter 3:15-16

Conclusion: Every human being on this planet deserves a chance to hear the gospel. And every child of God should drink from the well of joy when they share their faith!!! Are you ready to drink? God is ready to use you in His kingdom! Who do you know that should hear the gospel?

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LESSON #8: “The Joy of Fatherhood”

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” The Bible is filled with stories about fathers and their children. God knows that we need spiritual leaders in the home today. What do we know about Christian fathers? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. A Good Father Allows His Children To Choose (vs.11-19)

He understands the desires of his children (vs.12-13).

He understands the disappointment of his children (vs.14-16).

He understands the discouragement of his children (vs.17-19).

II. A Good Father Awaits Change In His Children (vs.20-21)

He knows that his children will experience reality (v.17).

He knows that his children will experience remorse (v.19).

He knows that his children will experience regret (v.20-21).

III. A Good Father Approves of Conformity In His Children (vs.22-24)

He realizes that his children need a second chance (v.22).

He realizes that his children need a season of celebration (v.23).

He realizes that his children need a spirit of contentment (v.24).

IV. A Good Father Accepts The Criticism of His Children (vs.24-32)

He does not condone the actions of the younger brother (vs.24-27).

He does not compliment the anger of the older brother (vs.28-31).

He notices a contrast in the aspirations between the brothers (v.32).

Conclusion: We need to praise God for our Christian fathers! I hope we can learn to be more like our Heavenly Father. His spirit of love and mercy in this story exemplifies the character of a good father. Do you love your Father? Have you told Him today?

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LESSON #9: "The Joy of Fellowship"

Text: Acts 2:41-47

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." One of the ways we gain joy is by having fellowship with one another. It would be wise for us to consider what it means to have true fellowship with God and one another. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Meaning of Fellowship

We Need Christ (**John 17**)

We Need Communion (**I Corinthians 10:16**)

We Need Community (**II Corinthians 6:14**)

We Need Contribution (**II John 10-11**)

II. The Misconceptions of Fellowship

You Can Choose Your Brethren (**Acts 9:26**)

You Can Ignore Sin (**I Corinthians 5:5, 7**)

You Can Hide From Darkness (**Ephesians 5:11**)

You Cannot Have Peace (**III John 9-12**)

III. The Mentality of Fellowship

Serve One Another (**Galatians 5:13**)

Pray For One Another (**James 5:16**)

Work For One Another (**I Peter 4:9**)

Love One Another (**I John 2:11**)

Conclusion: Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! One way to achieve that joy is through fellowship. Our fellowship depends on our relationship to God (**I John 1:5-10**). Are you in fellowship with God? Are you in fellowship with His saints? Give the Lord control of your life! Seek His fellowship and the fellowship of His church!

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LESSON #10: “The Joy of Forgiveness”

Text: Psalm 32

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” The Bible has a lot to say about relationships. One specific thing that we should study more often is the subject of forgiving others. Everyone has been hurt and everyone has probably hurt someone else. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Sin Will Affect Our Relationships

What had God done for David? (vs.1-2)

What had David done against God? (vs.3-7)

What had David decided to change? (vs.8-11)

How did this influence David’s relationship with God? (**Psalm 65:3, Psalm 86:5**)

II. Conflict Will Affect Our Relationships

We can choose ignorance (**Judges 17:6, Romans 3:9-26**).

We can choose bitterness (**Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 10:30, Hebrews 12:14-15**).

We can choose forgiveness (**Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:12-13**).

We can choose repentance (**Matthew 18:21-35, Isaiah 1:18, Ezekiel 36:25, I John 1:8-9**).

III. Mercy Will Affect Our Relationships

Rediscover the person’s humanity (**Romans 3:9-26**).

Surrender the desire for vengeance (**Hebrews 10:19-39**).

Empower others with your great example (**Luke 5:17-26**).

IV. Change Will Affect Our Relationships

Don’t forgive someone too quickly (**Matthew 18:21-35**).

Don’t forgive someone too late (**Matthew 5:23-24**).

Don’t forgive someone based on their repentance (**Luke 23:34**).

Don’t forget that forgiveness is a process (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

Conclusion: Do you have trouble forgiving others? Have you forgiven yourself? Do you need forgiveness from God? Do you need to receive prayer to encourage you to forgive yourself? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #11: "The Joy of Giving"

Text: Romans 12:10-13

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." God goes to great lengths to provide us with great joy. And when He commands us to do things He hopes that eventually we will find joy in following His commands. The Lord wants us to know that giving can bring us much joy. It's a great Bible subject and we mustn't be ashamed of it or afraid of talking about it. I want to share a few stories in the Bible with you. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. ABRAHAM FOUND JOY IN GIVING

Genesis 14:18-20

Hebrews 7:4

Exodus 12:5

II. THE WIDOW FOUND JOY IN GIVING

Mark 12:41-44

II Corinthians 9:7

II Corinthians 8:9

III. JESUS FOUND JOY IN GIVING

John 3:16

Luke 6:38

Ephesians 1:3

IV. PAUL FOUND JOY IN GIVING

II Corinthians 9:6-8

II Timothy 4:6-8

Acts 20:35

V. THE EARLY CHRISTIANS FOUND JOY IN GIVING

Acts 2:42-47

Acts 4:32-37

Malachi 3:8-11

Conclusion: How is your level of giving? When you look at these great Bible characters, what do you see? Why did they give? They received great joy when they were giving. The dream of having great joy can become a reality! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #12: "The Joy of Hope"

Text: Romans 12:10-13

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." What comes to your mind when you hear the word: Hope? I would like for us to consider biblical hope. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What's So Special About Our Hope?

This hope is a glorious hope (**Romans 5:1-5**).

This hope is an abounding hope (**Romans 15:13-14**).

This hope is an abiding hope (**I Corinthians 13:13**).

This hope is a bold hope (**II Corinthians 3:12**).

This hope is a calling hope (**Ephesians 1:15-18**).

This hope is a saving hope (**I Thessalonians 5:8**).

This hope is a blessed hope (**Titus 2:13**).

This hope is a living hope (**I Peter 1:3**).

II. Why Do We Have The Hope?

There is hope because Jesus is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:15**).

There is hope because the resurrection is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:16**).

There is hope because Heaven is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).

There is hope because comfort is coming (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).

There is hope because we are secure in Jesus (**I Peter 1:20-21**).

There is hope because we have been born of God (**I John 5:18**).

There is hope because we belong to God (**I John 5:19**).

There is hope because we believe in God (**I John 5:20**).

Conclusion: **Hebrews 7:24-25** says, "because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." This is our great hope. Jesus has blazed the trail (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). Do you need some of that hope today? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #13: “The Joy of Integrity”

Text: Titus 2:6-8

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” We hear the word “integrity” from time to time, but what does it mean? Integrity can be a source of joy to the believer. As a Christian, am I commanded to have integrity or is it just a result of maturity in Christ? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. The Bible Consistently Speaks of Integrity

Integrity will resist compromise (**Proverbs 11:3**).

Integrity will resist conformity (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Integrity will resist corruption (**Proverbs 28:21**).

Integrity will resist contentiousness (**John 12:6**).

II. The Bible Characters Show Integrity

Job was a man of integrity (**Job 1:1, 1:20-21, 2:9**).

David was a man of integrity (**Psalms 7, I Samuel 13:14**).

Solomon taught about integrity (**Proverbs 10:9, 28:6**).

Jesus was a man of integrity (**I Peter 2:21-25, Hebrews 2:8-9**).

III. The Bible Considerably Stimulates Integrity

The Bible will stimulate us to be more truthful (**Ephesians 4:25**).

The Bible will stimulate us to be more sincere (**Philippians 1:10**).

The Bible will stimulate us to be more righteous (**Proverbs 14:2**).

The Bible will stimulate us to be more Christ-like (**Philippians 2:5**).

Conclusion: We need to find joy and happiness. We can achieve this by walking with Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, and pursuing honorable behavior. When you do the right thing it's good for the soul! May God bless us when we follow Him more faithfully! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #14: "The Joy of Kindness"

Text: Ephesians 4:17-32

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." Why is it so important to be kind? Can that have an influence on our joy as a Christian? What can we do to be more kind toward others? How can we grow in our kindness toward others? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. God Is Kind

- He created mankind (**Genesis 1-2**).
- He saved mankind (**Titus 3:4**).
- He keeps His promises (**II Peter 1:4**).
- He encourages men to obey (**Luke 6:35**).
- He rejoices when He is kind (**Luke 15:7**).

II. Jesus Is Kind

- Jesus showed kindness to His mother (**John 2**).
- Jesus showed kindness in His miracles (**Luke 18:38**).
- Jesus showed kindness in His teachings (**Matthew 7:7-11**).
- Jesus showed kindness in His death (**I Peter 2:21-25**).

III. Paul Was Kind

- He taught that ministers must be kind (**II Corinthians 6:4-6**).
- He taught that kindness is a key to a joyful life (**I Thessalonians 5:16**).
- He taught that kindness is an effective weapon (**Romans 5:7-8**).
- He taught that kindness reflects Christian maturity (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Conclusion: What can you do to show kindness to others? We cannot expect people to be kind to us, unless we are kind to them. We must never forget the Golden Rule (**Matthew 7:12**). Don't allow your attitude rob you of joy. Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

JOY WITHOUT LIMITS

Bible Class Study Guide

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

LESSON #15: "The Joy of Life"

Text: Psalm 33:1-22

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." The writer of Psalm 33 wanted to address the need for his nation to praise God for creating them, sustaining them, and saving them. It would serve us well to recognize some of these blessings. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Our Choices Can Bring Us Joy

- Wealth will not bring joy (**Proverbs 23:4-5**).
- Power will not bring joy (**Ecclesiastes 2:10, 12:13**).
- Fame will not bring joy (**Matthew 6:33**).
- Possessions will not bring joy (**Matthew 5:45**).

II. Our Family Can Bring Us Joy

- Parents can bring joy (**Ephesians 6:1-3**).
- Children can bring joy (**Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 23:23-24**).
- Grandchildren can bring joy (**Psalm 128:6, Job 42:16, Proverbs 17:6**).
- Marriage can bring joy (**Proverbs 5:18, 12:4, 18:22, 19:14**).

III. Our Friends Can Bring Us Joy

- David & Jonathan found joy (**I Samuel 18:1**).
- Solomon believed in friendship (**Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:10**).
- Jesus believed in friendship (**John 11:35, 13:23, 21:15-23**).

IV. Our World Can Bring Us Joy

- Nature can bring us joy (**Romans 1:20**).
- The heavens can bring us joy (**Psalm 19:1**).
- Christians can bring us joy (**John 13:34-35**).
- Animals can bring us joy (**Revelation 19:11**).

Conclusion: Are you happy to be alive? The dream of having great joy can become a reality if we live everyday to the fullest! Praise God for every moment you have to be alive! Would you like to live forever? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #16: "The Joy of Love"

Text: I Corinthians 13:13

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." Paul defines love for us. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Love Is Necessary (vs.1-3)

- Love is necessary to use spiritual gifts properly.
- Love is necessary to offer more appropriate sacrifices.
- Love is necessary for our good works to have any value.
- Love is necessary for our preaching and teaching to be effective.
- Love is necessary for our knowledge not to be wasted.
- Love is necessary for us to please God.

II. Love Allows Us To Give Some Things (vs.4-7)

- Love suffers longs – that means we can overcome many things
- Love is kind – that means we should be willing to help or assist others
- Love rejoices in the truth – that means we see the good in others
- Love bears all things – that means we protect each other and look out for one another
- Love believes all things – that means we are trusting and accepting
- Love hopes all things - - that means we are positive
- Love endures all things – that means we help each other without complaining

III. Love Forces Us To Give Some Things Up (vs.4-7)

- Love does not envy – that means we are not jealous of what others have
- Love does not parade itself – that means we do not brag or boast
- Love is not puffed up – that means we are not full of pride
- Love does not behave rudely – that means we cannot be ugly or act like people of the world
- Love does not seek its own – that means we are not happy stepping all over other people
- Love is not provoked – that means we do not fly into a rage, but keep our temper under control
- Love thinks no evil – that means we have the best possible motives
- Love does not rejoice in iniquity - does not take delight when they are guilty

IV. Love Leads Us To Maturity (vs.8-11)

- Love never fails.
- Love will outlast prophecies, tongues, and knowledge.
- Love looks forward, never backward.
- Love leads us away from child-like immaturity.
- Love leads us on toward perfection.

V. Love Is Everlasting (vs.12-13)

- Love will help us to see things clearly.
- Love will help us to see ourselves.
- Love will help us to see others.
- This is why love is the greatest human virtue.

Conclusion: Do you have love? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #17: "The Joy of Maturity"

Text: Acts 4:13

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." Did you know that growing up can be a source of joy? Growing pains are part of God's spiritual process. Each step we take leads us closer to the image of our Creator and our Savior Jesus Christ. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Peter Experienced Maturity

- Peter, the faithful fisherman (**John 1:42**)
- Peter, the reckless rock (**Matthew 14:30**)
- Peter, the denying disciple (**Luke 22:54-62**)
- Peter, the purposeful preacher (**Acts 5:41**)
- Peter, the soft-spoken shepherd (**I & II Peter**)

II. Peter Taught Maturity

- Growth will lead you to joy (**I Peter 1:8, 4:13**)
- Growth will lead you to comfort (**I Peter 1:6**)
- Growth will lead you to nourishment (**I Peter 1:8**)
- Growth will lead you to blessings (**I Peter 3:8-9**)
- Growth will lead you to leadership (**I Peter 5:1-11**)

III. You Can Discover Joy Through Maturity

- Maturity helps us to deal with trials (**James 1:2-3**)
- Maturity helps us to grow in faith (**Matthew 18:10**)
- Maturity helps us to get to Heaven (**I Corinthians 13:1-13**)

IV. You Can Teach Others About Maturity

- The Lord tests us (**Psalms 11:4-5**)
- The Lord refines us (**Psalms 66:10**)
- The Lord saves us (**Psalms 119:67**)

Conclusion: God never intended on us becoming mature Christians overnight. It's a long and painful process to become a steadfast believer. Are you willing to pursue maturity? Will you allow God to have control? Remember He is the potter and we are the clay! God is not finished with you yet! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #18: "The Joy of Motherhood"

Text: John 19:25-27

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." What a joy to have a God fearing mother! There is much to be said about Christian mothers. God holds a special place in His eternal home for these terrific Christian leaders. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Study The Word of God

- Hosea 4:6 - People are destroyed for a lack of knowledge, mothers must study
- II Timothy 2:15 - Mothers must study to prove themselves to God
- II Timothy 3:16-17 - Mothers can be equipped for every good work

II. Believe The Word of God

- Romans 10:9-17 - Mothers can have faith in God, pray with your kids
- Hebrews 12:1-2 - Mothers are among those witnesses (Sarah, Jocabed, etc.)
- II Timothy 4:6-8 - Mothers can know that God's word will lead them to Heaven

III. Obey The Word of God

- Ephesians 6:1-3 - Mothers should be honored if they are obedient (the cycle)
- Hebrews 5:8-9 - Jesus was taught obedience, by whom, His mother
- James 1:21-22 - Mothers should allow the Word of God to save their souls

IV. Live The Word of God

- Proverbs 31:10-31 - Mothers should be influential in their home, church, and community
- Matthew 5:14 - Mothers are the light of the world, the light of the house
- I Peter 3:1 - Mothers, and wives, can win their husbands by just living their life for Christ

V. Teach The Word of God

- Matthew 28:18-20 - Mothers are fulfilling the Great Commission
- II Timothy 1:5 - It was Timothy's mother and grandmother that taught him from childhood
- II Timothy 3:14-15 - Paul credits them with his knowledge of the Bible (mentors, teachers)

Conclusion: Abraham Lincoln once said, "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." Later he would add, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Thank God for our Christian mothers!

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LESSON #19: "The Joy of Prayer"

Text: James 5:16-17

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." One of the ways we gain joy is by having a close relationship with God. We can accomplish that by communicating with Him in prayer. How's your prayer life? What can we do to improve our walk with God? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Learning To Pray Like Jesus (Matthew 6:5-15, John 17)

- Jesus identifies the pretense of prayer (**Matthew 6:5-7**).
- Jesus identifies the power of prayer (**Matthew 6:8**).
- Jesus identifies the passion of prayer (**Matthew 6:9**).
- Jesus identifies the path of prayer (**Matthew 6:9**).
- Jesus identifies the purpose of prayer (**Matthew 6:10**).
- Jesus identifies the provision of prayer (**Matthew 6:11**).
- Jesus identifies the pardon of prayer (**Matthew 6:12**).
- Jesus identifies the protection of prayer (**Matthew 6:13**).
- Jesus identifies the praise of prayer (**Matthew 6:13**).
- Jesus identifies the persuasion of prayer (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

II. Learning To Pray Like Paul (I Thessalonians 5:16-17, II Corinthians 13:7-10)

- Take time to pray for yourself (**Colossians 1:9-12**).
- Take time to pray for your family (**Ephesians 5:21-6:4**).
- Take time to pray for your community (**Romans 14:19**).
- Take time to pray for your church family (**Philippians 1:9-11**).
- Take time to pray for your nation (**I Timothy 2:2**).
- Take time to pray for those who are sick and shut-in (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).
- Take time to pray for those who are poor and oppressed (**Galatians 2:10**).
- Take time to pray for those who are outside of Christ (**Romans 10:1**).

Conclusion: God wants to have a relationship with us! He wants us to communicate with Him daily. When is the last time you spent some quality time in prayer? Don't you think prayer would bring you joy? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #20: "The Joy of Patience"

Text: Isaiah 40:31

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." One of my all-time favorite passages of the Old Testament is **Isaiah 40:31**. It reminds me that if I will let God mature me in my faith, and have patience with life, He will take care of me in the end. Let's study about patience together...

Discussion:

I. The Patience of Noah

- Noah was good (**Genesis 6:8**)
- Noah was faithful (**Hebrews 11:7**)
- Noah was dedicated (**II Peter 2:4-5**)
- Noah was saved (**Genesis 9:1**)

II. The Patience of Joseph

- Joseph was good (**Genesis 41:42-43**)
- Joseph was faithful (**Psalms 105:16-22**)
- Joseph was dedicated (**Genesis 40:1-41:13**)
- Joseph was saved (**Genesis 45:1-15**)

III. The Patience of David

- David was good (**I Samuel 17:1-58**)
- David was faithful (**I Samuel 31 - II Samuel 5**)
- David was dedicated (**Psalms 37:34**)
- David was saved (**I Samuel 13:14**)

IV. The Patience of Christians

- We must be good (**Galatians 5:22**)
- We must be faithful (**Hebrews 11:6**)
- We must be dedicated (**Ephesians 3:20**)
- We must be saved (**Hebrews 6:12**)

Conclusion: Are you happy to be a servant of the Lord? Are you willing to exercise just a little patience while you wait upon the Lord? You can drink from the well that offers water for those who thirst for joy! Through patience you can become complete, you can receive God's mercy, and increase your faith. Have you given the Lord your life? Have you learned to be still (**Psalms 46:10**)? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #21: "The Joy of Revival"

Text: II Chronicles 7:11-18

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." God is willing to allow nearly anything to happen to us if it means getting our attention. Why is it that we have to hit bottom before we decide to look up? In order to really experience the joy of Christianity we need to seek the refreshing spirit of God. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. We Need Humility to Have Revival

- Pride led to Satan's fall (**Isaiah 14:13**).
- Josiah humbled himself (**II Kings 22:18-20**).
- Manasseh humbled himself (**II Chronicles 33:11-12**).
- Daniel humbled himself (**Daniel 10:12**).

II. We Need Confession to Have Revival

- This will lead us to forgiveness (**Psalms 32:5**).
- This will lead us to brokenness (**II Samuel 12**).
- This will lead us to cleansing (**Psalms 51**).
- This will lead us to healing (**James 5:16**).

III. We Need Reverence to Have Revival

- Seeking God's face signifies persistence (**Matthew 7:7**).
- Seeking God's face signifies dedication (**Numbers 6:24-26**).
- Seeking God's face signifies relationship (**Matthew 6:9-13**).
- Seeking God's face signifies good intentions (**Psalms 35:13**).

IV. We Need Repentance to Have Revival

- Repentance reveals a contrite spirit (**Psalms 34:18**).
- Repentance reveals a humble spirit (**Isaiah 57:15**).
- Repentance reveals a cleansed spirit (**I John 1:9-10**).
- Repentance reveals a holy spirit (**I Peter 5:5-7**).

V. We Need Maturity to Have Revival

- Maturity is a sign of a transformed life (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- Maturity is a sign of a joy filled life (**Romans 15:1**).
- Maturity is a sign of a secure life (**I John 5:13**).
- Maturity is a sign of a focused life (**John 21:15-17**).

Conclusion: There is no reason why you cannot get the satisfaction of knowing God is with you and strengthening you to be revived, restored, renewed, and refreshed. Do you know what it takes to experience revival? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Don't rob yourself! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #22: "The Joy of Salvation"

Text: **Philippians 2:12-13**

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." God goes to great lengths to provide us with great joy. He wants us to be saved! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What Does The Bible Teach About Salvation?

Salvation allows us to become God's children (**John 1:12-13**).

Salvation in Jesus Christ is the only way to get to Heaven (**John 14:6**).

Salvation includes gaining a relationship with God (**John 17:9-11**).

Salvation cannot be earned because it is a gift from God (**Romans 6:23**).

Salvation is by God's grace and because of His great love (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Salvation rescues us from Satan's power and dominion (**Colossians 1:13-14**).

Salvation was obtained by Jesus' blood (**I Peter 1:18-19**).

II. What Must I Do To Be Saved?

To be saved you must hear the gospel.

Matthew 7:24-27

Acts 15:7

Romans 10:17

To be saved you must believe in Jesus Christ.

John 8:24

Acts 16:31

Hebrews 11:6

To be saved you must repent of your sins.

Luke 13:3

Acts 3:19

Acts 17:30

To be saved you must confess your faith.

Matthew 10:32

Acts 8:37-38

Romans 10:9-10

To be saved you must be baptized.

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38

Acts 22:16

To be saved you must remain faithful.

Romans 6:22

II Timothy 4:6-8

Revelation 2:10

To be saved you must be full of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:1-8

Galatians 5:22-23

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Conclusion: There is no reason why you cannot go to Heaven. There is no excuse worthy of hearing. You know what you need to do to be saved! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Don't you want that assurance? Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #23: “The Joy of Temperance”

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” We often see the words temperance, temperate, and self-control in the Bible. It is the last thing mentioned in the list we call the “Fruit of the Spirit.” Why? What does that mean? How can controlling ourselves actually bring us joy? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. The Need for Temperance

The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Removes Our Fear (**II Timothy 1:6-7**).

The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Fuels Us With Power (**John 14-16**).

The Temperance of the Holy Spirit Provokes Us To Love (**I Corinthians 13**).

II. The Benefits of Temperance

Temperance Establishes Our Perspective (**I Thessalonians 5:5-8, Matthew 26:41, I Corinthians 10:12-13, Ephesians 6:18-20**)

Temperance Ignites Our Spiritual Flame (**I Peter 4:7, 5:8, I Thessalonians 5:19**)

Temperance Equips Us For Spiritual Warfare (**John 4:24, 16:5, Romans 8:1-38, Ephesians 3:16-20, Titus 3:5**)

III. The Difficulty of Temperance

Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Face Adversity (**II Timothy 3:1-5, Job 1-42**)

Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Feel Alone (**Deuteronomy 31:8, Zephaniah 3:17, Matthew 20:28**)

Temperance Will Be Hardest When You Are Surrounded By Sin (**Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5, 8-9, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 3:10-14**)

Conclusion: There is no reason why you cannot go to Heaven. There is no excuse worthy of hearing. You know what you need to do to be saved! Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Don’t you want that assurance? Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #24: "The Joy of Understanding"

Text: Philippians 4:8

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." God clearly hopes that we will adjust our thinking to have a mind like Christ. What does it mean to have proper thinking? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Understanding Things That Are True

Proverbs 19:25

I John 2:14

Proverbs 23:23

John 17:17

Ecclesiastes 7:2, 5

John 8:32

II. Understanding Things That Are Noble

I Samuel 13:14

I Corinthians 1:26

Genesis 6:9

Acts 17:11

Proverbs 31:10-31

I Timothy 3:1

III. Understanding Things That Are Just

Proverbs 28:5

Psalms 111:7

II Samuel 8:15

Proverbs 14:31

I Kings 10:9

Acts 10:34-25

IV. Understanding Things That Are Pure

Psalms 12:6

II Timothy 3:16-17

Psalms 19:8

I John 3:3

Psalms 119:140

I Peter 2:22

V. Understanding Things That Are Lovely

Psalms 19:4-5

John 3:16

Ecclesiastes 1:7

John 13:34-35

Psalms 135:3

I Corinthians 13

VI. Understanding Things That Are Good

I Kings 4:34

Psalms 136:1

Luke 7:3

Psalms 119:68

Romans 8:28

Psalms 143:10

VII. Understanding Things That Are Virtuous

II Peter 1:3, 5

Hebrews 7:28

I Chronicles 29:17

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 41:12

Proverbs 20:11

VIII. Understanding Things That Are Praiseworthy

Psalms 34:2

I Peter 2:9

Psalms 69:30

Hebrews 13:15

Psalms 71:23

Ephesians 5:19

Conclusion: Are you careful with your thoughts? Have you strived to have positive thinking? Do you understand the will of God? What can you do to ensure that you are enjoying all of God's blessings? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! Are you ready to drink?

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LESSON #25: "The Joy of Wisdom"

Text: Proverbs 1:7-9

Introduction: We are concluding a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." In this final lesson we will discuss the need for wisdom. How can wisdom give us joy? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Wisdom is Reverence For Godliness

Proverbs 1:7

I Timothy 6:11

II Peter 1:5-9

II. Wisdom is Request For Knowledge

Proverbs 1:7

Romans 11:33

II Peter 3:18

III. Wisdom is Rejection of Foolishness

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 19:3

I Corinthians 3:19

IV. Wisdom is Respect For Authority

Proverbs 1:8

Romans 13:1

Hebrews 13:17

V. Wisdom is Relationship With Your Parents

Proverbs 1:8

Exodus 20:12

Ephesians 6:1-4

VI. Wisdom is Responsibility For Honor

Proverbs 1:9

Daniel 5:7

Proverbs 3:22

VII. Wisdom is Reward For Faithfulness

Proverbs 1:9

Matthew 25:21

Galatians 5:22-23

Conclusion: We need godly wisdom. Do you follow what is true and right? Are you a God-fearing believer? Have you repented of your sins? Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord? Have been immersed for the forgiveness of your sins? Are you walking faithfully according to God's Holy Word? Are you sharing the wisdom you have learned from God's word with others? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! Are you ready to drink?