

BELIEVE SERIES Lesson 21

JOY

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Key Question: What gives us true happiness and _____ in life?

Key Verse: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be _____." (John 15:11)

Key Idea: Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my _____ in life.

(Key Application) Let your _____ help you.

(Key Application) Saturate your _____ with God's teaching on joy.

(Key Application) _____ and embrace God's intimate involvement and care in your life.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?

- I have inner contentment even when things go wrong.
- Circumstances do not dictate my mood.
- I am excited about the sense of purpose I have for my life.
- I can be content with the money and possessions I now have.

Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea

1. In what ways can you relate to Rozanne's story?
2. Discuss practical ways to find joy in the midst of troubling times.
3. Discuss biblical examples of joy that inspire you (i.e., the apostle Paul in prison).
4. Discuss eyewitness examples of joy displayed within your community that motivate you.

Read Psalm 16:1-11 and John 15:1-11 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.

1. Based on the passages you just read, what practical steps can you glean that will lead to greater joy in your life?
2. Pinpoint unhealthy yet common beliefs and practices that stand in the way of true joy and contentment.
3. How does faith in Christ give us reason to be joyful in all circumstances?

OTHER PASSAGES

Psalm 16:1-11; 19:8; 119:14, 162 John 13:1; 15:1-11; 16:16-24 James 1:2-17
Deut. 16:13-17 1 Chron. 16:7-36 Ezra 6:13-22 Habakkuk 3:1-19
Philippians 1:1-19, 27-30; 2:12-18; 3:1-21; 4:1-13 1 Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-16; 5:6-11

CLOSING PRAYER

BELIEVE SERIES Lesson 21

PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 23: Peace and/or read the following passages

Isaiah 9:6-7; 53:1-12	Romans 5:1-11; 12:17-21; 14:1-15:13	2 Cor. 5:11-6:2
Ephesians 2:1-22	Genesis 13:1-18	Matt. 5:21-26; 6:25-34
1 Timothy 2:1-8	Titus 3:1-11	Col. 3:1-17
Mark 4:35-41	John 14:15-27	2 Sam. 15:1-16, 23, 30
	Philippians 4:4-9	Psalms 3:1-8

Then, answer the following questions:

1. In the two passages from Romans 5 and Ephesians 2, look for all the references to “peace” and similar terms such as “reconciled,” “brought near,” and “together.” How does Jesus Christ establish peace between us and God and with each other?
2. “Disputable matters” are areas where there is more than one acceptable option or opinion, so we must each decide with conviction and yet respect others who choose differently. What are “disputable matters” for Christians today?
3. After reading Paul’s counsel to the church at Colossae and Rome from Romans 12, how would you describe the principles that promote peace in our relationships with each other?
4. How does living at peace with people outside the faith, including government leaders, promote the gospel? How do we achieve this when the government is making decisions and taking actions that conflict with our Christian faith?
5. What is Paul’s prescription for anxiety and worry?

Key Verse: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Key Idea: I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others and peace with myself.

Personal Application

1. How would this virtue express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who lives at peace?
3. What is impeding your ability to experience true peace? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to experience greater peace with God, others and yourself?