

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE JOY OF JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES"

For individual study or group discussion

As we follow where Jesus leads and pursue faithfulness in Kingdom mission, today we discover where there's Jesus, there's joy. In Luke 10:17-24, the seventy-two messengers return from their mission with joyful hearts, declaring, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" (v. 17). As Jesus affirms the authority of his Word, he presents them with needed perspective as he stresses, "Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." *As Jesus' disciples participating in Kingdom mission, our joy is to be rooted in God's gracious salvation (vv. 17-20).*

- Theologian and pastor Eugene Peterson explains how joy results from participating in Jesus' Kingdom mission: "Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence. It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ; it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience."¹ Reflect on how your studies of "faith and obedience" in Deuteronomy have deepened your understanding of joy.
- Compare the joy of the seventy-two disciples with those who were present at Pentecost in Acts 2. How were these two events similar (vv. 42-47)?
- Read Luke 15:1-10. What happens when a person comes to faith in Christ? How does all of heaven respond to this? This week, pray for the salvation of someone you know who is lost. Share the good news of Christ with them.

As Jesus' disciples participating in Kingdom mission, our joy is to be rooted in God's sovereign revelation (vv. 21-22). In these verses, we find Christ rejoicing. Christ rejoices as he thanks the Father for his sovereign will in the salvation of souls (v. 21). Then Jesus proceeds to summarize for us the modus operandi of revelation, "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" (v. 22). According to theologian Geerhardus Vos, essentially "soteriology is Christology," or in other words, all saving knowledge is a knowledge concerning the Son.²

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Why does God call those who are "low and despised" to participate in his Kingdom mission?
- According to Mark 10:15, Matthew 18:3, Luke 18:16-17, John 3:3-6, Matthew 16:17, and John 9:39—what kind of heart receives the good news of the Kingdom of God?
- What is the greatest blessing of all according to Jesus (Matthew 13:16; John 20:29)?

As Jesus' disciples participating in Kingdom mission, our joy is to be rooted in God's blessed revelation (vv. 23-24). In these verses, Jesus instructs the disciples to recognize the blessings of seeing the long awaited Messiah, the Son of the Most High (Luke 1:31-33). Living on this side of redemptive history, Puritan theologian Matthew Henry encouraged his readers to consider "the great advantages which we have in the New Testament light, above what they had who lived in Old Testament times, should awaken our diligence in the improvement of it; for, if it does not, it will aggravate our condemnation for the non-improvement of it."³

- Read John 20:29. What kind of faith does Jesus praise when one of his disciples is hesitant to receive the news of his resurrection?
- Think back to what you have learned about following Jesus. Discuss how you've experienced difficulties in living for Christ and sharing the Gospel.
- From our studies in Deuteronomy and Luke, what is the importance of remembering the faithfulness of God's promises and the work he has accomplished through Christ on your behalf? How should this encourage you as you participate in God's Kingdom mission? Pray that God will renew the joy of his salvation in your work this week.

DATE: September 25, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 10:17-24

Family Dinner Table

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

Pixar's movie *Inside Out* tells the tale of an 11-year-old girl named Riley Andersen and the five embodied emotions who tell her story: Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. During Riley's move to a new home, the bright and bubbly emotion, Joy, tries to prevent her companions, especially Sadness, from upsetting Riley. But as the storyline progresses, in a pivotal scene, Joy finds herself coming to grips with her own sadness. All alone and crying, Joy realizes that the fullness of life cannot be cherished without a mix of joy and sadness. Once Joy understands how Sadness plays an important role in Riley's emotional life, Joy embraces the roles all the emotions share in Riley's well being.

As followers of Christ, our joy is to be rooted in our Savior, but that doesn't mean we won't face sadness in life. For the author of Hebrews tells us even Christ "who for the joy set before him endured the cross" for our sakes (12:2).

- Read James 1:2-4. How should you respond when you face hardships?
- Read Hebrews 2:10. How does Christ's example give you hope?
- What are some of God's promises that encourage you to have joy, even in the midst of sadness and trials? As a family, read together Psalm 16.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Bethel Bible Village, supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Elizabeth and Paul Musser, supported missionary partners who serve with One Collective.

¹ Peterson, Eugene. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. 1980. Downers Grove. InterVarsity Press. 92

² Vos, Geerhardus. *The Self-Disclosure of Jesus*. 1953. Nutley, NJ. P&R Publishing. 149

³ Henry, Matthew. *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. <https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary/matthew-henry-complete/luke/10> September 21, 2022.