

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of December 13, 2020

MY STORY

Who / What brings you joy?

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What is the difference between happiness and joy? How would you explain that to someone?
2. Jim said that Jesus teaches joy—Jn. 15:9-11. How can joy be 'taught'?
3. Hebrews 12:1-2 describes Jesus' joy while hanging on the cross. How is it possible that He had joy in those circumstances? What does this teach us about our times of difficult circumstances?

4. Jesus taught us that our joy is found in Him, but what does that look like in our lives? How do we live in light of that and what should we expect because of that?

5. James 1:2-4 – "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds..." Be honest—is this your reaction to trials? What can you do to make it become your reaction?

6. Gal. 5:22 says that one of the fruits of the Spirit is joy. Paul used the analogy of a tree bearing fruit. What does this say about how we 'get' joy in our lives?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think about your answer to My Story, can you express it to either a person or thanks to God for them/it?

PRAYER REQUEST

- _____
- _____

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionaries of the Month Please pray for Paul Krueger as he works with The Navigators Prison Discipleship Ministries.

Christmas Eve Services Please go on-line to www.wpcchurch.org to RSVP for one of our THREE Christmas Eve Services.



CHRISTMAS ADVENT

Joy—Biblical Joy

Selected Scriptures Jim Vandermeer December 13, 2020

Joy of the Season

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10

I Joy of Jesus

Jesus Teaches Joy John 15:9-11

Jesus KNOWS Joy Hebrews 12:1-2

II Joy for Us

It's not the lack of trials

It's the reality of Jesus