

STUDY GUIDE



July 9, 2017

Message Title: JOY

Teaching Pastor: Angie Frame

Bible Verses:

- James 1:2-4, NIV
- Hebrews 12:2b NIV
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16, GNT, NIV, NRSV, NKJV

Key Points

1. Henri Nouwen says, *"We are inclined to think that when we are sad we cannot be glad, but in the life of a God-centered person, sorrow and joy can exist together. That is not easy to understand, but when we think about some of our deepest life experiences, such as being present at the birth of a child or the death of a friend, great sorrow and great joy are often seen to be parts of the same experience. Often we discover the joy in the midst of the sorrow. I remember the most painful times of my life as times in which I became aware of a spiritual reality much larger than myself, a reality that allowed me to live the pain with hope. I dare even to say: 'My grief was a place where I found joy.'"*

When in your life have you experienced sorrow and joy together?

2. **What trial, challenge, or problem are you currently facing?**

What joy might be before you if you persevere through this difficult situation?

3. “(Y’all) rejoice always.”
Who do you rejoice with--your family, your small group, your ministry team, your friends?

If you don’t currently have people around you to rejoice with, then how could you change that?

How do you rejoice? What does rejoicing look like in your life?

Notes: