

November 4, 2018
Message Title: JOY
Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Key Points

1. When you hear the word "joy" then what...
 - a. places come to mind?
 - b. people come to mind?
 - c. smells come to mind?
 - d. tastes come to mind?
 - e. sounds come to mind?
2. **WATCH THE VIDEO.**
3. When have babies brought you joy? What other emotions have babies brought out in you?
4. Baby John the Baptist leaps for joy in utero. Have you ever actually leapt for joy, or seen anyone else leap for joy?
5. In the video, Angie speculates that Zechariah and Elizabeth experience "joy and delight alongside heartache and confusion" as John's parents. When have you felt such opposite emotions simultaneously?
6. **Read Luke 1:57-58.** Elizabeth's joy isn't her own; it's shared with her neighbors and relatives. When have you shared in someone else's joy? When have others shared in your joy? How did that affect your own experience of joy?

7.	Read Matthew 28:20. Jesus assures us that we are in his presence always. What difference does it make in our lives to know that Jesus is always with us, even when we don't see or feel him? What does that have to do with joy?
8.	Not everyone can think of a time when they were aware of being in Jesus' presence, and that's okay. But, if you can think of times when you were aware of being in his presence, then what did you experience? Fear? Joy? Peace? Confusion? Excitement? Awe? Something else?
9.	What are some ways we can become more aware of Jesus' presence?
10	What's one thing you can do this week to be more aware of Jesus' presence around you?
11.	What's one area of your life that you're struggling to find a kernel of joy in?

As a group, lift up those areas of struggle, pray for faithfulness to look for Jesus' presence, and ask Jesus to show himself to your group this week.

NOTES: