



# JOY

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.'"*

*Luke 2:10-11*





## **Sing For Joy**

October 11<sup>th</sup>-October 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Psalm 96**

- 1** Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2** Sing to the Lord, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3** Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- 4** For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.
- 5** For all the gods of the nations are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.
- 6** Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- 7** Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 8** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- 9** Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10** Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."  
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11** Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- 12** Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;  
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- 13** Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples in his faithfulness.





# the Fruitful Life



WBS FRUIT STUDY

Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

## FOUNDATION “

Write out any key or repeated words and phrases. What is the key verse of the passage? Pick a memory verse and write it out.

”

## READ & REREAD

Read the passage in multiple translations. Notice any differences. Did anything stick out new when you read it again?

## UNDERSTAND

**Ask Questions of the passage.** What does it teach me about God? What does it say about sin? What does it say about the gospel? What would you like to research further?

## INTERPRET

**Consult Commentaries.** Use any commentaries or Study Bible notes to help answer some of your above questions. Write out any insights.

## TAKE ACTION

**Apply the passage.** How does this passage change you? What is one action step you can take from it? Close your time by writing out a prayer from what you have learned.

## **Sing for Joy**

### **Psalm 96**

*\*\*Remember to read the Optional Application*

1. What are some of your favorite Christian songs or hymns? What lyrics resonate with you?
2. What commands do you find in this passage?
3. Read Psalm 40:3. Has the Lord ever put a "new song" in your mouth? What was it?

4. Read Revelation 5:9-14. What is the new song sung here?
5. Returning to Psalm 96, how does worship become witness in verse 3? How have you seen worship to be a witness?
6. What reasons for singing this new song are given in verses 4-6? Which one of these truths about God are particularly meaningful to you?
7. What does it mean that the Lord reigns in verse 10?



8. Read verses 11-13. What does the earth do in response to the coming of Lord?

9. Read Isaiah 11:1-9. Why is judgment a positive thing? Why is it something to look forward to?

*\*\*Optional Application: Spend time in worship this week. Pick a worship song and listen to it and sing along- aloud!*



## **Joy: To Live is Christ**

October 18<sup>th</sup>-October 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Philippians 1**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

**2** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**7** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**9** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**12** Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard<sup>[a]</sup> and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. **14** And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

**15** It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. **16** The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.



# the Fruitful Life



WBS FRUIT STUDY

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## TAKE ACTION

**Apply the passage.** How does this passage change you? What is one action step you can take from it? Close your time by writing out a prayer from what you have learned.

## **Joy: To Live is Christ**

### **Philippians 1**

*\*\*Remember to read the Optional Application*

1. Paul, this incredible, influential apostle for Christ shares his motivation for life in this passage. What is it? What is his greatest ambition?
2. Read Acts 16:11-15. This is Paul's first step into Philippi. How might this encounter be on Paul's mind as he writes this letter to the Philippians?
3. Paul says that he is a servant of Christ. What does that mean? What would he gain by that?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-33. Describe some of the hardships that Paul faced in his life.

5. What circumstances or situations, found in Philippians 1, might prevent Paul from experiencing joy?

6. Focus in on verses 9-11. What are the main contents of this prayer Paul prays for the Philippians? What part of this prayer would you like prayed over you? What part can you pray over someone else?

7. Read Ephesians 1:17, Colossians 1:9-10, Philemon 1:6 and verse 9 from our passage in Philippians. Paul connects love and knowledge over and over again in his letters. How do these two things connect? What knowledge about God helps you to love Him more?



8. To me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_. How would you finish that, honestly?

9. What does this beautiful affirmation, "For me, to live is Christ" truly mean? What does it mean for Paul who is facing imprisonment and suffering? What does it mean for you? What might stand in the way of you being able to declare this truthfully?

*\*\*Optional Application: Spend at least 10 minutes in silence before God. Repeat the phrase found in verse 21, "For to me, to live is Christ."*



## **Good News of Great Joy**

October 25<sup>th</sup>- October 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Luke 2:1-21**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.





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**Good News of Great Joy**

**Luke 2:1-21**

*\*\*Remember to read the optional application*

1. Reading this story fresh this week, did anything new stick out to you?
2. What are the three names that the angel ascribes to Jesus in verse 11?
3. What is the “good news, of great joy”? Write it out in your own words- or look at other translations and write out one you like.

How does this bring joy?

How can it bring you joy when you face hard times?

4. What do you think it means that Mary “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart”?
5. What words of God have you treasured and pondered in your heart?
6. Read the following verses and write what it teaches you about joy and how it connects to peace.

Proverbs 12:20

Isaiah 55:12

Romans 14:17

Romans 15:13



7. Read the following verses. Write out how each of these verses can give you joy no matter what you face.

Romans 5:8

Romans 8:1

2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Corinthians 8:9

1 Timothy 1:15

*\*\*Optional Application: Pick one of the verses from question 7 to memorize and repeat anytime you are struggling to be joyful. Take hold of that truth of what God did for you.*