

"Joy"

1. What brings you joy? In the various areas of your life, what things—whether small or huge—give you joy?
2. Read John 16:16–24. What is the relationship between circumstances and joy in this passage?

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "...and no one will take away your joy" (verse 22)? What new realities for the disciples would contribute to that joy?

3. "Rejoice always" (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Read Habakkuk 3:17–18, written when invasion by a brutal foreign army was imminent. What is your level of agreement with the following endings for this sentence: *We should rejoice always because...*
 - a. *we have good reason to rejoice.*
 - b. *it is God's will that we do so.*
 - c. *it allows us to make the best of bad circumstances; (being gloomy doesn't make things better).*
4. Read Psalm 33:20–22. In this passage, how do faith and hope bring joy? Share with the group some of your own beliefs and hopes that support a deep and constant joy.

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?