

“Joy-Fill”
A Personal or Small Group Experience

Joy is something we were made to experience. Joy is essential to true living. Joy is experienced as we feel ourselves becoming fully alive. Joy is also what the Enemy—Satan wants to steal from us.

Jesus said in John 10, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*”¹¹ *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*”

Think about and discuss the reality of joy being something God really wants you to experience and then God’s enemy the devil constantly working to “steal” from you.

Think through and discuss how you can see the devil “stealing” joy from you on a daily basis!

One of the key ways we combat the “joy leak” that we have is to constantly be filling ourselves with joy—joy from the Lord. God has given us so many great words, stories, songs and prayers for us to rehearse to refill our joy. One of my favorite carols is “Joy to the World”. This song was loosely based on Psalm 98. For your readings, meditation and discussion I encourage you to read and contemplate Psalm 98 and then work through the Christmas story in Luke 2. As you do go on a hunt for joy. Notice words phrases and nuances of joy in these two sections of scripture and then receive them as little gifts “of joy” from God.

Psalm 98

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-20



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - December 20-25

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.

Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”
“How are You inviting me to respond?”

- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Psalm 96

Tuesday: Psalm 98

Wednesday: Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday: John 1:1-14

Friday: Luke 2:1-7

Saturday: Luke 2:8-20