

Spiritual Growth Questions for December 13, 2020

Advent 2020: Come Lord Jesus Come
Unshakeable Joy
December 13, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

Opener: Share your favorite verse on joy!

1. Carefully read **Psalm 16**. As you read make note of what the psalmist (David) did to increase his joy. What does he warn that will increase sorrow? What verse stands out to you? How can it be applied in your life right now?
2. **Read Psalm 16:11, Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2.** Christian joy is essentially the enjoyment of communion with God. In view of this, what do Psalm 66:18 and Isaiah 59:2 suggest concerning a common hindrance to joy? What then should be one of the first things we do when we are not experiencing the joy of the Lord?
3. How often do you joyfully acknowledge God's goodness in your life? Identify one good thing God has given to you or done for you in the past week. Take a moment to celebrate it with someone else.
4. List two or three Scriptures used in this outline to help you grow in your joy. How can you master these verses so that they can be effective in your life?
5. What action step can you take this week to increase the presence of joy in your daily life?

Scripture: Read the passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

II. **Read the following scripture: Psalm 32:1-4, 5-11** Choose one of the passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method.

Prayer: Personalize these verses and pray them over your life and the lives of those on the journey with you.

John 16:22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, **and no one will take your joy from you.** 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Something lost/Something Found: A Party!

While celebrating advent together, we are grateful that the long awaited Savior of the world came over 2000 years ago to bring God's joy to all who call on His name. The relationship between God and humans was broken due to man's sin and rebellion. "The Old Testament of the Bible contains 127 Messianic predictions involving three thousand verses, with 574 referring to personal Messiah," J. Barton Payne. Advent captures the anticipation of our Savior Jesus. Today, we will consider the joy that Jesus brings to every soul who places their trust in Him for forgiveness of sin and salvation. Nothing can take that joy away. Pray that we would have unshakeable joy. Joy no matter what!

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

John 16:22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, **and no one will take your joy from you.**

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah* 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Big Idea: The more I know about forgiveness, the more I will know about joy. Nothing brings joy like a right relationship with Jesus. Unshakeable Joy!

Something lost/something found/ a party- Luke 15 summary

Key Questions: Why do I need forgiveness? How do I receive forgiveness? How can I really experience joy in my life?

I. Increase my _____ of my need for forgiveness.

Psalms 32:1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 Ways sin is viewed: Transgression, sin and iniquity. Each aspect of sin has its own special remedy.

Transgression –

Sin –

Iniquity –

Psalms 32:3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

The Christian life begins not with high deeds and achievements but with the most simple and ordinary act of humble asking. Timothy Keller

Hebrews 1:9. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” Psalms 45:7

Remember that everything I deserve Jesus took! I Peter 2:24

**God’s goal is not our misery. His goal is our joy!
When we reject Jesus, we reject joy!**

II. Increase my _____ of God’s forgiveness.

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

Psalms 32:1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Forgiven –

Covered –

Not counted –

Colossians 2:13 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Psalms 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Takeaways:

A. Live with a posture of _____.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

B. Walk in continual spirit _____.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 3:20.

Psalms 86:5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

C. Deposit _____ situations with the Lord. Commit/Trust/Follow

Psalms 32:10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

D. _____ loudly and ask for a fuller experience of joy.

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

John 16:22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, **and no one will take your joy from you.**

The joy that Christmas brings, the assurance of God’s love and care, is like a subterranean river of joy, a fountain of mirth, that will always reinvigorate you no matter the circumstances of your life. Timothy Keller

***For further life application, interact with the Spiritual Growth exercises on the last page of this outline.**

The more I know about forgiveness, the more I will know about gladness and joy.
Nothing brings joy like a right relationship with Jesus.
Unshakeable Joy!