

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Joy is an interesting concept in that it is often misunderstood both culturally and within the church. In short, while happiness is based upon that which is happening, joy is a gift of God that exists beyond circumstances.

1. Joy is different than happiness. In what ways do you know joy to differ from happiness? Describe these differences.
2. What might happen if we begin to confuse joy with happiness?
3. Have you experienced joy to be of a different quality or intensity within the church? Is “joy like a fountain” within the church? Why might our joy be but a trickle, rather than as a fountain?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:39-44)

“Where two or three gather in [Christ’s] name, there [is He] with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

1. As mentioned in service, circumstances were certainly stacked against Mary as she carried Christ in her womb. What do you think was going through Mary’s mind at the words of the angel? Do you think she might rightly be described as “happy”?
2. Describe the connection between negative circumstances, Christ’s presence, the Holy Spirit and joy within Luke 1:39-44). How might this be a helpful connection for us to make?
3. At the presence of Jesus, John the Baptist, yet unborn, leapt in Elizabeth’s womb. What is our general demeanor at the presence of Jesus in our gatherings?
4. In what ways might we “leap for joy” in corporate worship? In our H2H group?

**Discussion Questions Set #3**

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10)

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me”. (Psalm 51:10-12)

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)

1. The joy that Jesus brings is described as “great”. What does this word mean to you? How is Christ’s joy “great”?
2. The joy that Jesus brings is available to all people. Why is this significant when we consider the world around us?
3. The joy that Jesus brings is a supernatural joy. How might such a joy be received? What practices and postures might we, as followers of Jesus, take in order to better receive this divine gift of joy?
4. Do you believe that you can experience a complete joy right here, right now? Why or why not?
5. What are the joy-stealers in your life right now? Commit to pray for these as a H2H group.