

ALLEY Rundown June 22-23, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Look Around (Joy in the Psalms) • *Psalms 8, 16, and 19*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to find joy?

Today's Bottom Line: Find joy in what you see around you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.*
Proverbs 17:22 (NirV)

PRE_SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Everybody! You picked the perfect time to join us in the Alley! Some of you woke up today, noticed the sun came out again, and thought, 'Let's party!'

Because we are Starting the Party all month while we are talking about having Joy! Speaking of having a party, is there anybody out there who wants to play a game ? *(Allow response)* SO, you are saying you want to play this game. And you have no idea what it is yet.

Well, It's one I like to call 'Fancy Foxtrot.'

SLIDE: *"Fancy Foxtrot"*

To play Fancy Foxtrot, each Small Group will need to gather around their leader.
(or just divide into 2 or more groups of kids)

I will be playing jams across all genres. When the music starts, your group's dance should match the style of the music. For example, country music should highlight your group's Western style of dance. Classical tunes should bring out those floaty moves from a different century. If you're unsure how to dance, simply look to your leader! They'll know what to do! Sounds easy enough, right? But when the music stops, your group needs to freeze as fast as they can. The last group to freeze will be eliminated from the game. Make sense? *(Allow response)* Good! Let's start the party!

AUDIO: *Various Styles of Music*

Have all the small groups stand up and gather around their leaders. Make space between the various small groups so you can better see the last group to freeze.

The Songs are in the following styles:

Country

Hip-hop

Disco

Scottish Bagpipes

Classical

Play the game and celebrate the last group remaining.

What a way to celebrate our time together! Amazing job to all our small groups! Each of you demonstrated a wide variety of dance moves I've never ever seen before . . . some of them I never want to see again.

Typically, I reserve my dancing for all the big moments in life. You know, weddings, birthdays, when the Cubs won the World Series . . . big moments like that.

Think about your own life for a second. Each of you has probably had big moments that make you want to jig, jive, and dance, right? When your parents surprise you with a puppy, when you found out you're going on a big vacation, when you finally beat the last level you've been trying to do for like two weeks . . . winning the game, acing the test, killing the solo—the list of dance-worthy experiences could go on and on.

These are moments worth celebrating! But I have a problem. They never last long. Each is a fleeting moment of happiness—not a long-lasting one. The happiness amassed from a great performance, good effort, or a great gift is short-lived. Life is made up of lots of small, less-exciting moments that don't make us feel like dancing a lot of the time.

Waking up early on summer break to go to the dentist isn't dance-worthy. Mindlessly scrolling through random YouTube Shorts isn't significant. Folding your clean clothes doesn't make you want to bust out your best sprinkler moves. These all are just everyday occurrences that aren't recorded permanently in our core memories.

If life isn't always a party, how can we find joy in the everyday moments? Is it possible to find contentment in the everyday things we see around us? Can joy be experienced in the things we take for granted every day? In school? In our families? In nature?

We'll explore these excellent questions today as we look at something found in a pretty special book in the Bible. The Bible is packed full of wisdom, and the people who wrote the Bible actually have a few things to say about finding joy—even in the small moments of life.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show*

Throughout many of the Psalms he wrote, David reminded us that joy can be found by looking around and really paying attention. God has given us our five senses, and God has placed people in our lives to help us find joy—even if life doesn't feel like a party.

Every single day, we should walk through life with an imaginary disco ball that shines lights on the many, many things around us that can give joy. David found joy in the small things. Instead of searching for the giant party behind us, we can practice paying attention to the small joy-givers around us—to all the amazing things and people God created. When we do that, we start to see that even though life isn't easy, God is still at work.

In Psalm 16, David wrote:

Open the Bible to Psalm 16:8a, 9a, 11a (NirV) and read.

I keep my eyes always on the LORD . . .

So my heart is glad. Joy is on my tongue . . .

You always show me the path of life.

You will fill me with joy when I am with you.

The presence of God changes things! When we focus on the Lord's goodness, joy can always be found in all circumstances.

I want everybody to do something for me before we move onto other activities. Consider this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

When is it hard to find joy? Each of us faces frustrations or difficulties in life. Many times, these can hide our joy. In your life, when are the moments it's hardest to find joy? As you think on that question, let's pray together and then discuss this question with our Small Groups.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Large Group Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps people who are struggling financially get on the right path to be able to support their families. I know Christmas seems a long way away but take a look at this video about Stars of Hope. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this...

VIDEO: Stars of Hope

Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to give gifts at Christmas to kids in families that need the help. When we think about all our blessings at Christmas time and every day, a simple way we can spread joy to others in need is to support Morning Star Missions.

CG: Summer JAM Slide

It's almost time for Summer Jam! It's coming THIS WEEK and we're so excited to invite you to these 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won't want to miss it. Tell whoever brought you that you need to visit the Summer Jam Tent after our time together today to sign up and get your T-shirt!

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**