

CITY LG June 22-23, 2024

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

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)

Monthly Virtue: Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

WORSHIP

My God

Wake

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups.

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everyone! I'm pumped to see all of you here today, because it's time to Start the Party. We're having so much fun this summer talking about joy!

SLIDE: Virtue

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

SLIDE: Theme

We can find joy by looking around to see how God is at work in our lives, and in the lives of other people. See, joy is so much bigger than happiness. Joy comes from knowing that God loves us so much that Jesus came to be our Savior. That's true when things in our lives are going great, and it's also true when we face tough times. We can celebrate the good news about Jesus and choose to trust God no matter what!

You know, brings me a joy and is one of my favorite things to do in the summer? Going to the beach! To celebrate my love for going to the beach we are going to play a game on the screen called, "At the Beach Close Ups!"

Take a look...

VIDEO: At the Beach close ups

Great job!

We've been talking all month about joy and I'm excited to share some words with you from the book of Psalms (*hold up Bible*) that can help us understand how we can find joy.

There are lots of different books that make up the Bible, and lots of different KINDS of books. Some books tell the history of God's people, the Israelites. Some tell about the life of Jesus and what happened with the early church. Some books are letters written by people like Paul to different churches as they learned how to follow Jesus. The book of Psalms is a bit different. You could think of the book of Psalms as a collection of SONGS. We don't know the tunes for these songs, but you can think of them as song lyrics!

For thousands of years, the book of Psalms was like the main songbook of God's people, the Israelites. The individual songs, or psalms, were written over many years . . . and about half of them were written by King David.

Some psalms are songs of praise or thanksgiving to God. Others share wisdom. And many of the psalms are cries for help in a tough situation. We can find amazing truths in the Psalms about who we are . . . Who God is . . . and the incredible world that God created.

Let's hear about some of David's words. Check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

feel like I can always do a better job of looking around and noticing the good things in my life. God has given us all kinds of amazing gifts that we can see all around us. And by that I mean things we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch—not to mention the people we love!

"I know life is full of ups and downs. When life is going great, we can find joy in thanking God for the good things that are happening. And even when things aren't going the way we hoped, we can still find joy by paying attention to the good things and people around us . . . just like David did!

"Remember:

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Find joy in what you see around you.

That's really important, isn't it? Let's say it again together.

Find joy in what you see around you.

God's Spirit can help us pay attention to the good things in our lives. When we put our trust in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. And we know that joy is one of the things God's Spirit creates in us! You can always find joy when you think about how much God loves you . . . and when you remember that, you can trust God no matter what.

So, this week, let's all try to pay attention to the things around us . . . and find joy! Let's pray and thank God for giving us so many reasons to have joy.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Dear God, thank You for all the joy You've put in our lives. Thank You for the way we can see Your goodness and love in the world around us—just like David wrote about in the Psalms. We can look at the beautiful world You created . . . our favorite things that we enjoy . . . and the amazing people You've made. Help us to pay attention to the things You've given us that can bring us joy! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

SLIDE: Theme

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.***

SLIDE: Theme