

MARINERS CHURCH



iChoose Joy 7.31.22

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds. James 1:2 (NIV)

#1 God wants me to be joyful.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." -Jesus, John 15:11

#2 Joy and faith in Jesus Christ are deeply intertwined.

Rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Philippians 3:1

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. Galatians 5:22-23

Now the natural person doesn't receive the things of God's Spirit, for they seem foolishness, and they can't know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

#3 The capacity for joy in my life is determined by my closeness with Jesus.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." -Jesus, John 15:11

How to increase my joy...

Remain close with God through time, attention, the Bible and prayer.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers;"
"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." -Jesus, John 15

But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; Psalm 73:28



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Don't doubt the goodness of God.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds. Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. You must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:3-4,6

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. Habakkuk 3:17-18

Remember how strong God's love is for you.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." -Jesus, John 15

Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup*

What is JOY? What's the difference between JOY and HAPPINESS?

How are joy and faith intertwined? How have you found your capacity/perception for joy increase with your growth with Christ?

Spend time together looking at John 15:1-17. What is Jesus saying to us? What are those things that strengthen our "joy receptors" and allow us to have more joy? What does it mean to abide?

What do you do daily to help you stay 'abiding'?

Read James 1:1-18. How can we 'consider joy' in trials? Can anyone share an example of how trials ultimately resulted in joy?

Honest time: how is your joy quotient right now? Don't feel guilty if you're not joyful. A lot of times we need others around us for support. Share and talk among yourselves and encourage each other to joy.

*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with the church office at marinerschurch@marinerscc.org