

Define “Joy”

For this section you will need to use a Strong’s Concordance, or an internet resource such that serves the same purpose as “Strong’s.” If you need help with this, please talk to David or one of the elders.

- I. What definition does the English dictionary give for Joy? _____

- II. In Galatians 5:22 what Greek word is translated as Joy? _____
 - a. What is the Strong’s number for this word? _____
 - b. What is the definition of this word? _____

 - c. Find three other places where this word is used:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - d. On a separate piece of paper (or your computer) answer the following questions about the three passages you found.
 - i. Who is joyful in this passage?
 - ii. What is causing the joy in this passage?
- III. In Philippians 4:10 what Greek word is translated as Rejoice? _____
 - a. What is the Strong’s number for this word? _____
 - b. What is the definition of this word? _____

 - c. Find three other places where this word is used:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - d. On a separate piece of paper (or your computer) answer the following questions about the three passages you found.
 - i. Who is rejoicing in this passage?
 - ii. What is being rejoiced about in this passage?
- IV. Having looked these up, was the English definition of Joy adequate?

Study of Joy in Philippians

Read through Philippians (It is only 4 short chapters). If you are not comfortable highlighting your Bible, then print out a copy of Philippians which you can highlight (See David if you need help with this).

- I. How many times is “Joy” or a variant of “Joy” (i.e. Rejoice) used in each chapter of Philippians?
 - a. Chapter 1: ___
 - b. Chapter 2: ___
 - c. Chapter 3: ___
 - d. Chapter 4: ___
- II. How many times does Paul use the phrase “rejoice in the Lord”? _____
- III. In Philippians 1:1-5, what action does Paul say he does “with joy”?

 - a. Why can he do this with Joy? _____
 - b. In verse 4 what attitude toward God accompanies Paul’s joy?

- IV. What would make Paul’s joy complete or full? What verse tells us this?

- V. In Phil. 1:12-20 what does Paul say that he rejoices in? _____

- VI. In Phil. 1:26 the New King James Version (NKJV) uses “rejoicing.” In what way do other translations render that word? _____

 - a. Using “Strong’s” (or similar resource) find out what Greek word is translated “rejoicing” in Phil. 1:26 in the NKJV. _____
 - b. Is this the same word that is rendered “rejoice” in Phil. 1:18? _____
 - c. How do the definitions of these two words differ? _____

- VII. According to Phil. 2:12-18 was Paul’s joy dependent on having pleasant, “fun” activities? _____
- VIII. In Phil. 2:28-29 who were they supposed to receive with Joy (you will have to look in the wider context)? _____
- IX. In Phil. 4:4 rejoicing in the Lord is part of the solution to what problem?

Study of contrasts in the Proverbs

The proverbs provide short thoughts on the difference between wisdom and folly. Studying what the proverbs have to say about joy can give us a good idea of what we should take joy in, and what we should not take joy in.

- I. Read Proverbs chapter 2
 - a. According to this chapter who is it that rejoices in evil? _____

 - b. According to this chapter how do we avoid the one who rejoices in evil? _____
- II. What are the two things that are being contrasted in Prov. 12:20?

 - a. This passage connects Peace and Joy together. Are there other passages in the Bible that connect Joy and Peace? Please find at least two such passages: _____
- III. Read Prov. 15:20-24.
 - a. In these verses, who is it that take takes joy in folly? _____
 - b. What should we do to avoid being that person? _____
 - c. In verse 23, what is said to bring joy? _____
- IV. According to Prov. 17:21 what is one thing that can steal joy? _____
 - a. Because of this what should parents strive to do? _____
 - b. Compare this verse to Prov. 23:15-25. What lessons can we learn about causing joy from these two passages? _____

- V. Prov. 17:22 tells us that a joyful heart is what? _____
 - a. According to this verse, does our outlook on life affect our health? ____
- VI. What two types of people are contrasted in Prov. 21:15? _____

 - a. In what way does this verse parallel Galatians 5:22-23? _____

- VII. According to Prov. 24:17-18 what should we NOT take joy in? _____

 - a. Find where Jesus said something similar to this (hint: look in the Sermon on the Mount). _____

Study of people who had joy in different situations

By studying people in the Bible who are said to have been joyful, we can learn a lot about having joy through different life situations.

- I. Read John 3:22-36 and answer the questions about this section:
 - a. Who is expressing joy in this section? _____
 - b. Who was causing his joy? _____
 - c. Did this joy revolve around something pleasant happening? _____
 - d. What activity did this his joy revolve around? _____

- II. Read Luke 10:17-20 and answer the questions about this section:
 - a. Who is expressing joy in this section? _____
 - b. What caused this joy? _____
 - c. Read Jesus' instructions to them in Luke 10:1-16. If they had not followed Jesus' instructions would they have the same joy? _____
 - d. Was this joy a result of something happening to them, or was it a result of actions that they took? _____

- III. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and answer the questions about this section:
 - a. Who had joy in this section? _____
 - b. Was this joy a result of something pleasant happening to Him? _____
 - c. He had joy despite what being done to Him? _____
 - d. Read Luke 22:47 – 23:56 to see the extent of suffering endured by Jesus. Was Jesus' joy which is spoken of in Hebrews due to the act of crucifixion or the results of the crucifixion? _____
 - e. With Jesus as our example and our point of focus, what does Hebrews 12:1 tell us that we should do? _____

 - f. According to Hebrews 12:3, keeping our focus on Christ will prevent what? _____

- IV. Read John 16:19-22 and answer the questions about this section:
 - a. Jesus told the apostles that they would have joy in what occurrence?

 - b. What emotion would this joy follow? _____

- c. Would this Joy be short lived? Why or why not? _____

 - d. Read Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:36-43 and Luke 24:50-53. According to these passages, did Jesus' statement from John 16:19-22 come to pass? _____
 - e. Could anyone take this joy from them? _____
 - f. Did this joy motivate the actions of the apostles in the future? (Hint: take a look at Acts chapters 1-2) _____
- V. **Digging deeper study question:** In multiple places in his epistles Paul states that individual congregations or particular people are his joy. Find these statements and study their contexts to see if there is any correlation as to why Paul feels this way toward them. Record your findings on separate paper.

Study of what causes God joy

Seeing as we are supposed to strive to please God, it is important to know what causes God joy. Also, if something causes God joy, then we should also take joy in that as well.

- I. Read Luke 15:1-33 and answer the questions about this section:
 - a. Why were the scribes and Pharisees upset at Jesus in this section? _____

 - b. What three Parables does Jesus use to answer them? 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____
 - c. Luke 15:3-7, The First Parable:
 - i. What do the ninety-nine sheep represent? _____
 - ii. What does the one lost sheep represent? _____
 - iii. What does the shepherd do about the lost sheep? _____
 - iv. Why would a shepherd rejoice about a lost sheep? _____

 - v. In verse 7 what does Jesus state causes Joy? _____

 - vi. Who particularly is rejoicing? _____

- d. Luke 15:8-10, The Second Parable:
- i. What does the lost coin represent? _____
 - ii. What did the woman do about the lost coin? _____
 - iii. Why would the woman rejoice about finding a lost coin? _____

 - iv. In verse 10 what does Jesus state causes Joy? _____

 - v. Who particularly is rejoicing? _____
- e. Luke 15:11-32, the third parable:
- i. Why was the father so joyful at the end of the parable? _____

 - ii. Did the prodigal son deserve his father's joy? _____
 - iii. According to this parable, how does God feel when a sinner repents and turns to Him? _____
 - iv. Should we emulate the older brother in this parable? Why or why not? _____
- f. These three parables all make the point that God and His angels _____ when a sinner repents.
- g. If this is how God reacts when a sinner repents, then how should we react? _____

Study about causing Joy in our spiritual leaders – Hebrews 13:15-17

- I. In verse 15, what are we supposed to offer as a sacrifice to God? _____
- II. In verse 16, how do we please God? _____
- III. Who are our spiritual leaders on earth (c.f. 1 Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9)?

- IV. In verse 17 what two things are we supposed to do toward our spiritual leaders? 1. _____ 2. _____
- V. Why should we do this? _____
- VI. If we do these things toward them, what reaction will this generate in them? _____
- VII. Would it be spiritually beneficial for us to cause them grief? _____

Study of what we should take joy in

We can choose what we take joy in, or what we rejoice about. Seeing as this is the case, it is important for us to know what things God wants us to take joy in.

This section will require you to do a bit more digging. Study carefully and you will find this very rewarding!

- I. Study John 15:1-11, then answer the following questions.
 - a. Who is speaking in this section? _____
 - b. How many times does each of these words appear in this section?
Love: ____ Abide: ____ Branch: ____ Fruit: ____
 - c. According to this section how do we abide in the Love of Jesus?

 - d. According to this section how can our joy be made full? _____

 - e. Cross reference this passage with John 17:13-21. What makes Jesus' joy full in us? _____
 - f. Does this joy come from being accepted by those around us? _____
 - g. Putting these together; what attitude should we have toward God's word? _____

- II. Study both Philippians 2:25-30 and 2 Corinthians 7:13, then answer the following questions.
 - a. In both of these passages Paul speaks about a young man. What did these two men have in common? _____

 - b. Why was Epaphroditus worthy of being held in high esteem? _____

 - c. Why were the Philippians told to receive Epaphroditus with Joy?

 - d. Why did Titus return to Paul from Corinth with Joy? _____

 - e. What does this response tell us about Titus' character? _____

 - f. Having looked at these two examples, what attitude should we have toward people who love to serve God and His people? _____

III. Study both James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:3-9, then answer the following Questions:

- a. According to James 1:2-4, what should take joy in? _____
- b. This seems counter intuitive to our normal thinking. But James tells us that the testing of our faith produces what? _____
- c. According to this passage, can we gain spiritual maturity without our faith being tested? _____
- d. In 1 Peter 1:6, What should we take joy in (hint: Look in verse 3-5)?

- e. Should we take joy in this only when times are good for us? _____
- f. Having joy through various trails shows us that our faith is what?

- g. At the revelation of Christ (His return) what will be the result of our joy through trials? _____
- h. What attitude should we have about Jesus, even though we have not seen Him in person? _____
- i. What do we obtain as the outcome of our faith? _____
- j. Is this worth facing trails in this life? _____
- k. Having studied both James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:3-9, what should our attitude be when we face trials and our faith is tested? _____

IV. Let's take a quick look at what we should not take joy in.

- a. In James 4:7-10, who is told to cleanse their hands? _____
- b. Give a basic definition of sin: _____
- c. Who is told to purify their hearts? _____
- d. Give a basic definition of being double-minded: _____

- e. What should this person's laughter be turned in to? _____
- f. What should their joy be turned in to? _____
- g. From this section we learn that we should not take Joy in our _____.

- V. Study the following passages and record what the object of Joy is in each.
- a. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, _____
 - b. Matthew 13:44-46, _____
 - c. Romans 14:16-18, _____
 - d. Colossians 1:9-12, _____
 - e. Hebrews 10:34, _____
 - i. Why accept this with Joy? _____
 - f. Acts 8:6-8, _____
 - g. Acts 13:50-52, _____
 - h. Colossians 1:24, _____
 - i. Why could Paul take joy in this? _____
 - i. 3 John 1-6, _____
 - j. Romans 15:13, _____
 - k. 1 Thessalonians 1:6, _____
 - l. 2 Timothy 1:3-5, _____
 - m. 2 John 12, _____