

Week 3: Joy

Bible Verses: Psalm 126, Luke 1:43-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126 is a community prayer for deliverance based on the remembrance of past deliverance. It is about joy remembered, and joy anticipated.

In 1 Thessalonians Paul responds to a church that has been asking how they can rejoice in the Lord when people were dying? How could they continue to trust and believe that Jesus was “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) in the midst of their grieving? Paul assures them in the second coming of Christ and the raising of the dead and calls them to rejoice in their lives regardless of the circumstances.

Questions for Adults and Teens:

- How do past restorations lead people to find hope and joy in God?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 combines rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks. What seems to be the relationship between the three, can you have one without the other two?
- How can we be signs of God’s joy to the world?

Questions for Families:

- What is something that brought you joy today?
- What did you do today to bring joy to someone else?
- How can we bring God’s joy to other people?

Prayer:

God, give us joy even as our world fills us with sorrow. Help us to live joyful lives that witness to your abiding presence and promises. Thank you for delivering good news of great joy, the birth of Jesus Christ, your son and our savior. Amen

Questions and discussions adapted from the following sources:

<https://hindscoaching.com/2020/09/21/advent-3-joy-video-chat/>

<https://storyboardingchurch.wordpress.com/2017/12/04/busy-lives-use-faith5-for-advent/>