



Joy Rules 3 – An Authentic Obedience Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- Have you been doing the Joy Rules text message devotions? If you have, **what has stood out to you from reflecting on the book of Philippians and the theme of joy so far?**
- **Are you more of a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How so?**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- In Sunday's message, Jeremiah shared that obedience is the path to ultimate joy. **How do you react to connecting obedience and joy?**
- **Read Philippians 2:12-13.** Jeremiah spent some time digging into the phrase in verse 12 that says, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." **How did the message help you understand these words and phrases? Is there more that stands out to you as you look at these verses that you want to explore?**
- In the message, Jeremiah challenged us that we misunderstand freedom. He shared a quote from Euripides; take a moment to read it and reflect on it: *"No one is completely free. If you live for wealth, you're a slave to wealth. If you live for morality, you're a slave to the moral law. If you live to please people, you're a slave to the people you are seeking to please."* **How does this quote challenge your understanding of freedom?**
- Near the end of his message, Jeremiah offered this challenging question: "Am I using God to get something from him? Or is God himself the goal?" **Take a moment to write down your honest reaction to these questions. Then, share as you are willing.**
- Jeremiah closed his message with a reminder that Jesus' example on the cross is our example of true obedience. **How does this comfort you? How does it challenge you?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

JOY RULES Series

Visit wschurch.org/joyrules to sign up for daily text devotionals during this series and to find many supplemental resources for this series.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- Philippians 2:6-8 - "Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"
- Philippians 2:12-13 - "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."
- **God's joy is unavailable to those who will not surrender to him.**
- Philippians 2:12 - "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling."
- Philippians 2:12 - "...work out your salvation..."
- **We misunderstand freedom.**
- **"No one is completely free. If you live for wealth, you're a slave to wealth. If you live for morality, you're a slave to the moral law. If you live to please people, you're a slave to the people you are seeking to please." -Euripides**
- **Freedom is not a lack of restrictions. Freedom is finding the right restrictions.**
- Luke 1:51 (ESV) - "has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts"
- Romans 1:21-24 - "...they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God...their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people...So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired..."
- Jeremiah 17:9-10a - "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives"
- Ecclesiastes 1:14 - "I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind"
- Isaiah 55:2 (NIV) - "Why spend your money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?"
- **God is opposed to the proud.**
- James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- **Do I really trust in His grace and mercy?**
- **Are you using God to get something from him?**
- Colossians 1:17 - "He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."
- Hebrews 1:3b - "He upholds the universe by the word of his power."
- Philippians 2:12-15 - "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"