



Joy Rules 1 – A High Purpose Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- **Do you agree that “we are all searching for the holy grail of joy”? How have you seen this in yourself? In others?**
- **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.)
- **How well are you managing your expectations about life?** Take a moment to write out your honest reflection on Eddie’s question, then share as you’re willing.
- Eddie shared background about Paul’s life and some of the specific challenges he faced in serving and following Jesus. Along the way, Paul shared some incredible statements that indicate his perspective. **Read through each of them.**
 - Philippians 1:12
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-7
 - Acts 20:24
 - Philippians 1:20

What do you notice in these verses that challenges you?

- Eddie challenged us to ask, what do I anticipate most? Where is my life headed? And does your purpose offer you enough meaning that no matter what hardship you face along the way, it will all make sense? **Spend some time with this question about your purpose and how it shapes your expectations for your life.**
- **Do you have a person who comes to mind as someone who lived/lives with true joy? What do you notice in them? What about their example would you want to follow?**
- Eddie compared God's work with the pieces of our lives to a cake with ingredients—the result is much better than the individual parts, and we must wait to see it finished. **How does this challenge you? How does it comfort 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

- **the holy grail of joy**
- **Our wise and unwise choices prove that we are joy-seekers.**
- **How well are you managing your expectations about life?**
- 1 Peter 4:12 – “Don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.”
- **A good life and a hard life can be the same life.**
- Acts 7:57 – “Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.”
- 1 Timothy 1:15 – “This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” – and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.”
- Philippians 1:12 – “I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.”
- **What we view as a setback, God sees as a setup.**
- **We need a purpose that is big enough to make our problems seem insignificant.**
- 2 Timothy 4:6 – “As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near.”
- **View your life as a drink offering that God is pouring out for his glory.**
- Acts 20:24 - “My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”
- **When all the calculations are final, will your life add up?**
- Philippians 1:20 – “I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.”
- **God’s joy transforms victims into victors.**
- 2 Timothy 4:7 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.”