



## FOR CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND FAMILY BIBLE STUDY TIMES

### Sermon Series: In His Will

#### Sermon Topic: Joy



**HOME** – (a family that wants you to grow):

**This Sunday, 21 March 2021, Church Services available:**

- Paarl South 09:00 (with Kids Church)
- Paarl East 09:00 (with Kids Church)
- Paarl North 09:00 (with Kids Church)
- Get together with some spiritual family after the service at Blacksmith's Kitchen. Let's make this a culture to connect with each other and to get to know one another better.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Relationship Talk: Divorced, what now? – 28 March
- Premarital Course: Starts 6 April



**UP** – (let's worship God first):

**Pray** - Open up in a prayer of gratitude. What are you thankful for? (*Thankfulness towards God, cultivates a lifestyle of worship.*)



**BACK** – (let's reflect on last week):

**Testimonies** - Any testimonies for what you are thankful for? How did last week's lesson impact your life? Have you applied it in your life or shared it with someone else last week? (*Testimonies builds our faith and accountability cultivates a lifestyle of obedience.*)



**IN** – (together discover new truths):

**Discover** – What new truths can we learn from the following verses? (*Word based convictions, cultivates a lifestyle of truth and faith.*)

We have been walking through our series In His Will and discovering the Rest, the Peace and the Joy of God! This week specifically we are looking at the JOY of GOD and that lasting, unshakable joy comes from our response to the word of God in our lives.

Ask someone in the group to read [John 15:9-12](#). Maybe ask someone else to read it again in a different translation before you proceed.

1. The path to Joy that is Full.

**John 15:9-12.** *'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'*

- Jesus says that He has spoken "these things" to us that our Joy may be full? What did Jesus speak to us in this portion of scripture?
- Can you see the encouragement from Jesus for us to remain in His love? How do we remain in His love?

## 2. An encounter with Jesus that leads to Sadness.

**Luke 18:18-24.** *And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!'*

- How did this Rich young Ruler respond to the words of Jesus? Do you think he was willing to obey?
- How did that make him feel?

## 3. An encounter with Jesus that leads to Life Change and Joy.

**Luke 19:1-9.** *'He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.'*

- How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus?
- What was the result of his response?

## 4. Relationship with Jesus leads to Lasting Joy (Joy that is full).

*1 Peter 1:8-9. 'Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'*

*Psalms 51:12. 'Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.'*

- According to Peter what leads to inexpressible joy?
- Peter and David both share the sentiment that there is a level of Joy that one can only experience once we have responded to the Gospel and experienced Salvation. Share your story of salvation with your group? Can you still recall the joy, peace and rest that resulted from your relationship with God?



**OUT** – (let's apply what we have just learned):

**Application** – Reflecting on today's scripture discoveries, what convicts you? What do you feel the Holy Spirit is asking you to do? Share this with your group.

We can see throughout scripture that God's heart is that we will live joy filled lives. Our joy depends on our response to the word of God. Our response to the word of God determines our relationship with God and it is only in Relationship with God that we experience full and lasting Joy.

Share with your group, the current state of your relationship with God? Are you satisfied with this state of your relationship? What is one thing that you could commit to this week to grow in your relationship with God?