



Greater Things

Week 1 – Joy Study Guide

As we move into 2017 we have the opportunity for Greater Things! Those Greater Things could be in better decisions we make, greater risks we take, or taking another step towards knowing God more. This week we will look at the area of joy. Joy can be like one of those free games on your phone; it seems simple to understand, but it's difficult to master. Is joy a feeling? Is it an action? One thing is certain—joy is necessary to achieve Greater Things!

1. What is one of your happiest memories?

“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” - Proverbs 17:22 (ESV)

2. **Read Proverbs 17:22 and Ecclesiastes 3:12.** According to these verses, why is joy important?

3. **Read Acts 16:23-26.** How do you normally choose to respond to a bad situation? In these verses we see that Paul and Silas had a pretty bad day. How did they choose to respond to their situation?

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice”
- Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

4. **Read Philippians 4:4-7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18.** These verses tell us to rejoice always...but does that mean we are forced to? Or, is rejoicing a choice? Think of a situation where you chose joy and one where you didn't. How do they compare?

5. **Read Acts 16:27-34.** Paul and Silas's joy was so well known and recognizable that it affected the other prisoners. It also affected the jailer to the point of salvation, and the jailer's joy affected that of his family. Joy is contagious! As a group strategize how you can have greater joy and how that joy can impact your surroundings. Then watch God start to do Greater Things!