



CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

OCTOBER 13, 2024

Title: Cultivate Joy: At a Funeral

Preacher: Hannah Buchanan

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9

You don't have to be Christian to experience joy. However, the joy that is offered by Jesus is unique in that it does not depend on circumstances and it can coexist with suffering. Why? Because **the resurrection of Christ changes everything!**

As followers of Christ, we have a *living* hope because of his resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). It changes the way we experience our circumstances and how we respond to suffering. In faith, we look forward to the day when God will restore all things. But in the meantime, our suffering is not wasted (1 Peter 1:6-7). As we follow Jesus, our soul is being saved and the byproduct of this process is joy (1 Peter 1:8-9).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read [1 Peter 1:3-4](#). How can this promise of a heavenly inheritance provide comfort or motivation for you during difficult seasons?
3. What is the role of faith in cultivating joy in our lives? What are some practical steps we can take to strengthen our faith?
4. How does Jesus' resurrection (our living hope) shape your daily life? In what ways does this hope change the way you respond to challenges or uncertainties?
5. What is the difference between joy and happiness or pleasure, especially in how we view suffering?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

The joy offered by Jesus is unique in that it can coexist with drudgery and the mundane aspects of our lives. We don't need a flashy, successful, fabulous life to experience joy. We often think the more we have, the happier we will be. It turns out the opposite is true; the more we have, the more it has us. We make room for joy through the practice of simplicity.

This week, resist materialism by spending as little as possible. Only buy essentials—groceries, gas, medical expenses, etc. Eat at home instead of going out. Avoid shopping. Our financial habits tell us a lot about what we value. Pay attention to what this exercise might be unearthing for you as you practice.