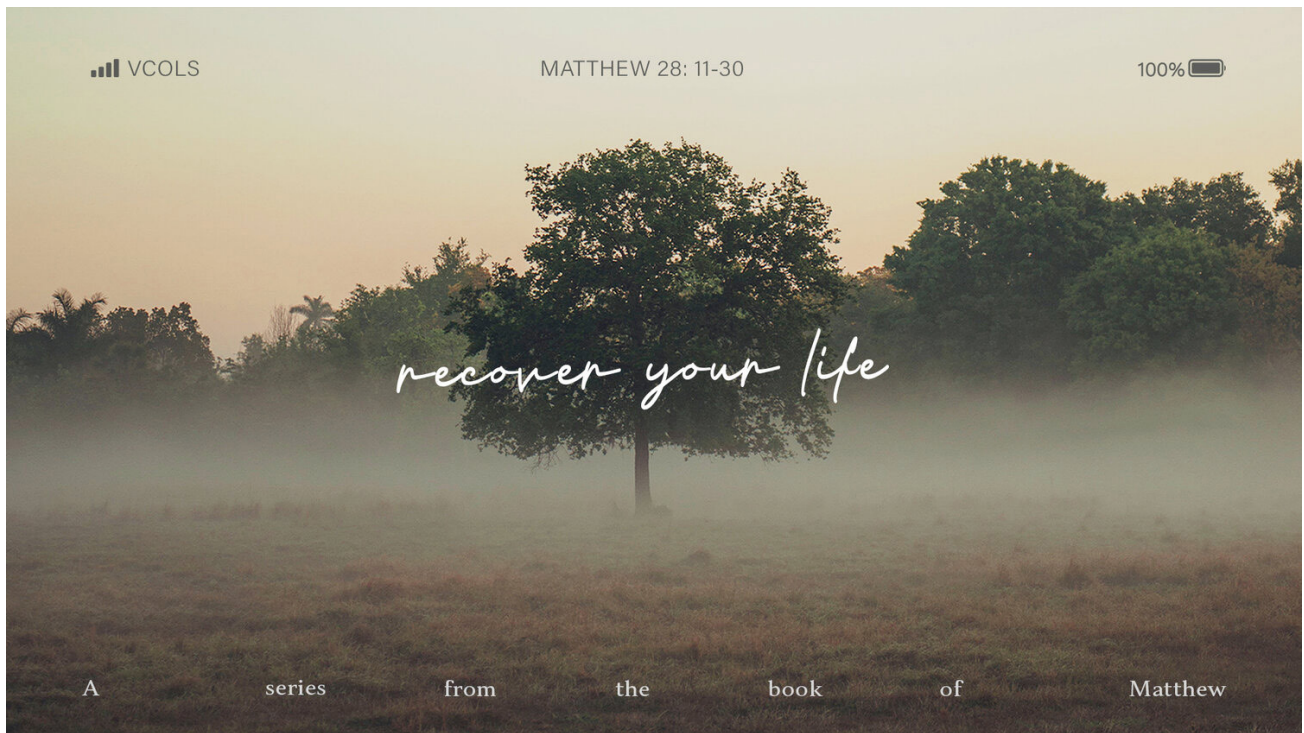


SERMON SERIES COMPANION STUDIES
FOR SMALL GROUPS



STUDY 4

Celebration

SERMON TEXT: JOHN 15:11; PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Getting Started

If you haven't done so already, share this PDF, or the link to this study, with other members of your group.

After greeting one another, take a minute or two of silence together and offer an opening prayer. If you don't all know one another already, invite each group member to share their name.

Opening Question

When is a time you felt truly joyful? Share with the group.

Purpose of This Week's Study

To understand more of how God is the source of our joy and how we can be joyful even in the midst of hardship.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS WEEK'S STUDY

God invites us into true joy in Him no matter what is happening in our lives. We are going to look at how God brings us His joy and how we can remain present in it.

Scripture Reading

JOHN 15:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For Reflection & Discussion

1. What is the importance of having joy in our lives?
2. Has there been a time in your life when things were hard, but you still felt joy despite the circumstances?
3. In Philippians 4:4, we are instructed to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” What does rejoicing in the Lord look like for you?
4. What does it mean to you to remain in God’s love? Why should we remain in God’s love?
5. How is God’s joy and rejoicing in Him, different than what we may find in the world around us?
6. How can you share the joy of God with others in your life who may not know Him?

For Prayer Ministry

Break into smaller groups and invite God’s joy to be with you. Share any prayer requests and thank God for the ways He has brought joy into your life.

For Further Reflection & Action Outside of Group

Gratitude and joy often go hand in hand. This week, at the end of each of your days think about at least two things you were grateful for from the day and thank God for those things.