

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

**“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage;
I have overcome the world.”**

— John 16:33 —

LESSON ONE

HE’S STILL WORKING ON ME!

Finding Joy in Progress

DISCUSSION QUESTION

“Why can’t God just fix my circumstances so that I can be happy again?”

INTRODUCTION

“Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent? In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider — God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him.” (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 1:21)

“But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.’” (Genesis 50:19-20)

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.” (Philippians 2:17-18)

OVERVIEW

- **“Joy in the Journey” 8-week series:**

1. June 5 – He’s Still Working on Me: Finding Joy in Progress
2. June 12 – To Live is Christ: Finding Joy in Life or Death
3. June 19 – Attitude Alignment: Finding Joy in Humility
4. June 26 – Embracing God’s Good Pleasure: Finding Joy in a Dark World
5. July 3 – Resumes Not Accepted: Finding Joy in Letting Go
6. July 10 – The Trouble with Remembering: Finding Joy in Looking Forward
7. July 24 – Gratitude, Peace, and Honor: Finding Joy in the Anxiety-Free Zone
8. July 31 – I am Invincible: Finding Joy in Contentment

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- **Exploring these questions:**
 - Does God promise us happiness?
 - How should I interpret bad circumstances in my life?
 - Is everything bad my fault?
 - How can anyone be happy in our world today?
 - Why can't I ever seem to get out from under adversity?
 - How can I be happy around unhappy people?
 - What's there to be happy about anyway?
- **Structure of the study:**
 - Provocative discussion question
 - Introduction to the topic
 - Fast-paced lesson

LESSON

He's Still Working on Me: Finding Joy in Progress

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:6)

1. God's work in us is a certainty.
2. God is the One who began the good work in us.
3. God is the One who will finish the good work in us.
4. God completes His work in us.
5. God works in us on His timeline.

So why do we question God's work in our lives?

“Do not fret because of evildoers, be not envious toward wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday.” (Psalm 37:1-6)

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Philippians 1:1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, **bond-servants** of Christ Jesus, to **all the saints** in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the **overseers** and **deacons**:

2 **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I **thank** my God in **all my remembrance** of you,

4 always offering **prayer** with **joy** in my every prayer for you all,

5 in view of **your participation** in the gospel from the first day until now.

6 For I am **confident** of this very thing, that **He** who **began** a **good work** in you will **perfect** it until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you **in my heart**, since both in my **imprisonment** and in the **defense** and **confirmation** of the **gospel**, you all are **partakers** of **grace** with me.

8 For God is my witness, how I **long** for you all with the **affection** of Christ Jesus.

9 And this I pray, that **your love may abound** still more and more in **real knowledge** and all **discernment**,

10 **so that** you may **approve** the things that are **excellent**, **in order to** be **sincere** and **blameless** until the day of Christ;

11 having been **filled** with the **fruit of righteousness** which comes through Jesus Christ, to the **glory** and **praise** of God.

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths **straight**.
— Proverbs 3:5-6 —

