



## PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

DECEMBER 16, 2018

### TAKEAWAY:

God provides joy both now and forever through Jesus Christ.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Followers of Christ should understand the biblical definition of joy and its role in the life of the Christian.

### GOSPEL CONNECTION:

It was Jesus' joy to go to the cross that sinful man might be reconciled to God, Who is holy (Hebrews 12:2).

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 How might an unbelieving person define joy?
- 2 According to non-believers, how can a person be a joyful, happy person?

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Luke 1:11-17 and Philippians 4:4.

*11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. 16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

- Why is rejoicing the only proper response for those who truly understand the gospel? What might a lack of joy indicate about one's understanding or value of the gospel?
- Why is it important that this rejoicing be continual as stated by Paul in Philippians 4:4?

- Would you say joy is something you produce in your own heart? Where does true joy come from?
- What are some ways that we all try to manufacture joy? Why do these efforts ultimately fall short?

> Read Philippians 4:8.

*8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

- According to this verse, how is the joy commanded in Philippians 4:4 produced?
- What specific things should occupy our minds in order to rejoice?

## **APPLICATION**

- 1 Would most people say you are a joyful person? Why or why not?
- 2 What makes you joyful? Is your joy based on favorable external conditions or something deeper?
- 3 How can you put yourself in a place to allow the Holy Spirit to generate joy in you? What does the gospel have to do with joy?

## **THIS WEEK**

- Memorize Luke 1:13-14.
- Read Luke 2:8-20 on Monday.
- Read Luke 2:21-24 on Tuesday.
- Read Luke 2:25-35 on Wednesday.
- Read Luke 2:36-40 on Thursday.
- Read Luke 2:41:52 on Friday.
- Read Luke 3:1-14 on Saturday.