

YEAR OF GROWTH

JOY WEEK 2

EXAMPLES

Old Testament:

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe joy. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of joy and prepare to explore important Bible examples.

Day Two – Monday

1 Samuel 18:5-7

There is joy when one's enemy is defeated. David had slain the giant Goliath. Thus, he had defeated both the man and the nation of the Philistines. The enemy that had threatened Israel for so long was overcome! Thus, the women of Israel were filled with joy and celebrated by honoring David. Like David, Jesus has defeated the enemy that has plagued man for all time. Though he is a greater giant than Goliath, Jesus conquered Satan! Every Christian should be filled with joy and celebrate by honor Jesus.

Day Three – Tuesday

1 Chronicles 15:25-28

At the first attempt to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the city of David, the people had disobeyed God and Uzzah was struck dead. On the second attempt, they obeyed the commands of the Lord. As a result, the Ark was brought safely to the city. Thus, there was great joy among the people. True joy can be found only in obedience to the will of God!

Day Four – Wednesday**1 Chronicles 29:9-15**

David made preparation for his son, Solomon, to build the Temple of God by contributing much of the riches of the kingdom to this purpose. He also asked others to give, which they did joyfully. The joy came from the fact that they “offered willingly.” They recognized that all their wealth came from the Lord and belonged to Him anyway. Thus, they considered it an honor and a privilege to be able to give to God! God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7), and a cheerful giver will find joy!

Day Five – Thursday**2 Chronicles 30:21-27**

For many years the children of Israel had not kept the Passover Feast according to the commandments of God (30:5). King Hezekiah determined that they would return to the Word of God and keep the feast as God had instructed. Upon doing so, there was a revival throughout the land of Israel and great joy in Jerusalem! Restoration – returning to the Lord and His will – results in true joy.

Day Six – Friday**Ezra 3:10-13**

When the children of Israel returned from captivity in Babylon, the Temple in Jerusalem had been completely destroyed. Work began to rebuild the Temple and the foundation was laid. Some who had seen the former Temple in all its splendor wept, realizing that this Temple would not be the same. However, most of the people were filled with joy! They sang, gave thanks to God, and shouted for joy because the Temple was being restored. A return to God from the bondage of sin brings true joy.

Day Seven – Saturday**Nehemiah 8:8-12**

Part of the return and restoration of the people of Israel was a reminding them of the Law of God. Thus, Ezra read God’s Word before the gathered nation from morning until midday. When the people heard the Scriptures, they wept. Yet, Ezra and Nehemiah commanded them not to weep but to be filled with joy. “The joy of the Lord is your strength!”

Reading and learning God’s Word is a source of true joy. Even when it points out our sins and causes us to be saddened, it is only for our benefit. God wants us to be forgiven and He longs to forgive! Thus, we should always be joyful when we hear the Word of God.