

YEAR OF GROWTH

JOY WEEK 3

EXAMPLES

New 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

Matthew 2:8-10

The wise men from the east rejoiced when the star appeared to lead them to Jesus. The language here is emphatic – “They joyed a great joy, very much” (Benson). Their joy came from the recognition of God’s continual and faithful guidance – all the way to the goal. Today, God guides us to Jesus and the Savior guides us to Heaven by means of Scripture. We should rejoice with great joy over the privilege of reading, studying, and knowing the Word of God.

Day Three – Tuesday

Luke 1:46-49

Mary rejoiced because she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. This was not due to personal pride. Rather, it was because God had selected one so lowly for such a lofty purpose. She was filled with joy that God was fulfilling His promise to bring salvation to the world. She joyed in the holiness, mercy, strength, and faithfulness of God. We should rejoice when we see God keeping His promises and fulfilling His Word.

Day Four – Wednesday**Luke 10:21-24**

Jesus rejoiced because His disciples understood and accepted His doctrine. Jesus had chosen those of child-like faith and spirit to go forth and to teach His Gospel. They had obeyed faithfully and returned joyfully. He also rejoiced that His doctrine had been hidden from those who were wise in their own sight and in the wisdom of men – sophisticated and cunning (LITV). His Gospel was for those who would humble themselves and understand their need of Him and His salvation. The self-righteous and hypocritical would not accept it.

We should rejoice when the Gospel is received, believed, and obeyed by an honest and good heart.

Day Five – Thursday**Acts 5:40-42**

The apostles rejoiced when they were beaten and commanded not to teach in the name of Jesus. They found joy in the fact that their actions were worthy of suffering for their Savior. They knew that they were doing right when they were treated as Jesus had been treated. Likewise, we should rejoice when our actions imitate the Savior – even if they result in our suffering.

Day Six – Friday**Acts 8:36-39**

The Ethiopian eunuch rejoiced when his sins were forgiven by his obedience of the Gospel. Jesus declared that the one who believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16). The Ethiopian believed and desired to be baptized. After his baptism he went on his way rejoicing. He understood that his sins had been washed away by the blood of Jesus when he obeyed the instructions of the Lord. Note that the rejoicing did not come before – but after – baptism. Truly, we should rejoice when our sins are forgiven!

Day Seven – Saturday**Acts 15:30-32**

The brethren in the church at Antioch rejoiced when they received and heard the letter from the apostles and elders of the church at Jerusalem (vs. 22). God's Word brought them comfort, consolation, exhortation, and encouragement. Likewise, we should rejoice at the reading of God's Word – publicly in our assemblies or privately at home. What a privilege we enjoy being able to read the Word of God.

Note that every example of joy was based upon spiritual considerations, not physical.