

CULTIVATE

THE FRUIT OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE



"Joy" – Cultivate – Week 2
September 14, 2025
Sermon by Pastor Rachel Keeler

Group Leader Notes

This is our second week in our new series *Cultivate* as we look at what it means to live out the Christian virtues bore from a Spirit-filled life. This year, we want to continue to grow in our discipleship together. We desire to pray deeper, draw closer to God and with each other. And continue to take the love and goodness of Jesus to bless the world around us. May the Lord cultivate His virtues in us.

This week we are looking at the virtue of "Joy." At times, joy feels elusive, circumstantial, and easily taken. But what if our understanding of real joy is incomplete? What if the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit is more accessible than we realized? And what happens in life when we experience the joy of the Lord?

Take Home Message: Joy is both an unfailing sign of God's presence, and an authenticating mark of genuine discipleship.

Main Scripture Reading: Luke 10:1-18

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **Q** – Pastor Rachel began her sermon by describing an unexpected moment of joy when she and her daughter were stuck in the parking lot with a disabled vehicle on Easter Sunday. Somewhere in the waiting for AAA, they found their humor, enjoyed being together in the inconvenience, took some fun selfies and now Rachel looks back on that as a moment of unexpected joy. What stories in your life does this bring to mind?
- **Q** – Or another way of asking this: Rachel said that, "There is no joy like doing the thing God created you to do." And showed a picture of her husband Noel with a face of joy playing guitar for a "Porch Fest" neighborhood concert. What is something you do that gives you joy?
- **Q** – The sermon looked at the passage of Luke 10-18 where Jesus sent the 72 disciples on a mission to preach, serve, and heal. Take some time in reading the text together. What do you find interesting? What questions arise? And why do you think the disciples returned so joyful?
- **Q** – When the disciples return, what does Jesus make sure they know is the source of their joy? Look closely at verses 18-20. What can we make sure we remember about what Jesus says about joy?
- **Q** – As you consider your life, what do you think is robbing you of joy? Is it your sense of joy being affixed to your circumstances? Is it a lingering issue or hurt that is attacking your joy? Is it a failure in not looking to Jesus for joy? And as you consider, what do you need to do to reclaim the joy of the Lord in your life?

Let's Pray