



MAR THOMA
CHURCH of SILICON VALLEY
SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Fruit of the Spirit is Joy

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When you think about things that make you happy and things that make you sad, it is pretty simple. When something good happens, you are happy and when something bad happens, you are sad. James tells believers to consider it joy when they go through difficult times in their lives (James 1:2-4). How is it possible to have joy, to praise God, in difficult times? Joy is very different from happiness. Happiness cannot be present when someone is sad. But joy can always be present, even at the same time as sadness.

Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law". If joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and we have the Spirit, we can have joy, no matter what. We can experience joy even in times of sorrow as we abide in Christ.

As we read God's Word, we discover more and more of who He is. We learn about His promises to us and all that He has done. We can experience joy when we read and know God's Word.

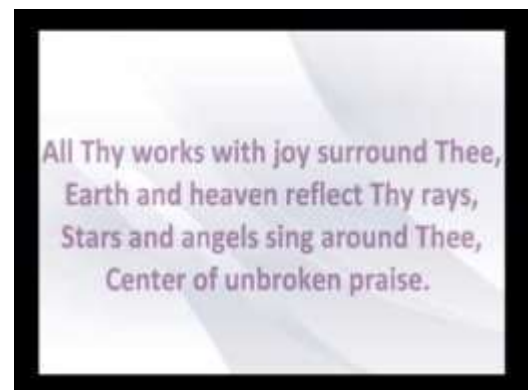
Listen to what Jesus says, "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" (John 15:9) Does that mean that nothing bad will ever happen in your life? No, of course not, but even when you are sad, you can still have joy in your heart because you know that Jesus loves you. An inexpressible joy!

Worship

You shall go out with Joy (with Lyrics)



Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee (with lyrics)





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Bible Passage
Habakkuk 3:17-18



Devotion
Rev. Larry Varghese



Memory Verse
Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Joy in the Lord

17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Habakkuk

Habakkuk is very remarkable book of the Bible, a third of it is a dialogue between Habakkuk and God (Habakkuk 1–2).

Habakkuk ponders the state of his nation, Judah, dumbfounded that evil and injustice prevails and God is strangely silent. Where was He? How long would He allow this mess to continue? Habakkuk asks God the kind of question that so many of us have contemplated.

God told Habakkuk that he was going to do something spectacular, He was raising up the cruel and violent Babylonians to come and crush the land of Judah. Not quite what Habakkuk was expecting.

In the end however, this 'minor' prophet teaches us a major lesson- that no place is too dark and no wall too thick for God's grace to penetrate in a powerful and life-affirming way. Wait on the Lord, find joy in him, he works all things for the good of those who love him.

Learn more about Habakkuk with this video →





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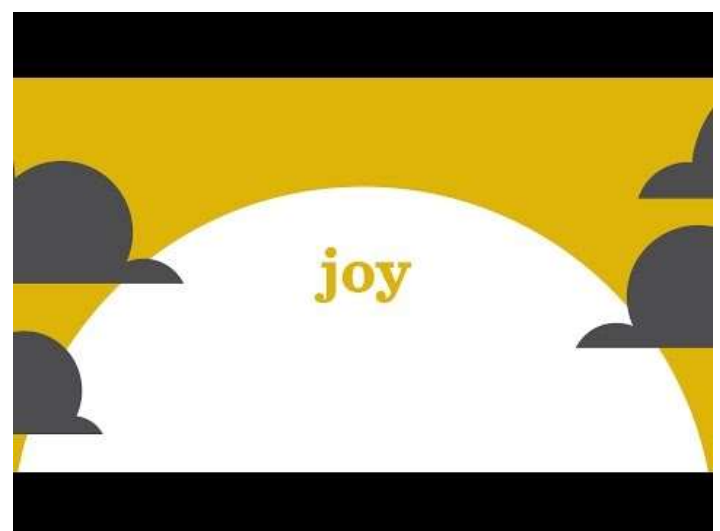


Video Resources

Use these videos to learn more about this week's theme.

Pre-school & Elementary

Middle & High School





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Prayer

Dear God,

You command us to be joyful always, even in the midst of trials and difficulties. We thank you that your Spirit gives us the joy that surpasses mere happiness. When life brings us down, help us to turn to your word, that we may get a new outpouring of your spirit. Strengthen us, our families, our leaders, our community & church. Help us to put our trust in you, the author and perfecter of our faith Amen.

Questions?

Submit questions using the form below



Sunday School Q&A

Feedback

Contact Mrs. Sherine Koshy
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References

<https://ministry-to-children.com/joy-bible-lesson/>

https://sermons4kids.com/heart_full_of_joy.htm

<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/spiritual-life/weekly-devotional-fruit-spirit-joy>

<https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-minor-prophets/habakkuk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPMaRqGJPUU>