

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
God With Us - John 15:1-11, 16:20-22, 17:13-17 - "Joyfully Fulfilled"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. How would you distinguish "joy" from "happiness" (or would you distinguish between them at all)?
Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were unhappy but also able to remain joyful?
What was situation, and how were you able to remain joyful in the midst of it?
3. Read John 15:11 - what do these verses say about Jesus desire for His disciples as it pertains to having joy?
How do verses 1-10 provide clarity as to the means by which we have the fullness of Jesus' joy in our lives?
What does it mean to "abide" or "remain" in Jesus, and how do we practically do this according to these verses?
As you consider your life, do you see a correlation between abiding in Christ and your ability to have joy?
In this season of life, do you find yourself striving to abide in Christ or struggling to do so (or both) & why?
4. Read John 16:20-22 and 17:13-17
How do these verses speak not only of the fullness of joy available in Christ, but also its duration & unflappability?
Where do you see Jesus, who is called a "man of sorrows" exhibit joy throughout His life, and how does He do it?
How can we follow His example to do the same thing in our lives (consider Hebrews 12:1-2)?
What difference does an eternal perspective make in our ability to have unwavering joy in all circumstances?
5. I read Rev. 21:3-4, James 1:2-4, & Psalm 16:1-2 & 11 - how do these verses challenge/encourage us all to choose joy?
6. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these encourage, convict, or challenge you, & if so, how?
BECAUSE OF JESUS, WE HAVE CHOOSE:
A fullness of joy that overflows from us!
As we remain/abide in Christ
Lasting joy rather than fleeting happiness!
As we remain/abide in Christ
A real joy throughout all circumstances!
As we remain/abide in Christ