

# 5 LENTEN QUESTIONS

A SERIES WITH BISHOP WRIGHT

## Q5: WHERE DOES JOY LIVE? | THE CROWN OF FAITH

### REFLECTION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the Bishop's videos for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

#### REFLECTION

Bishop Wright says that joy is purple, because you make purple out of red and blue, love and sorrow. He talks about how joy is our present and our future, "a dollop of God's tomorrow, today." He says that joy lives with faith, hope, wonder, and gratitude, and that each leads to the others. He says that joy is all around, but we might have to look, as it's not always easily recognizable.

#### SCRIPTURE

**Read James 1:2-4,12.** James says that there is a joy that comes from facing trials because of what they can produce in us, and the reward for endurance is the crown of faith.

**Read Jude 1:24.** Joy comes from God, and we will experience the fullness of it in God's glorious presence in heaven, which is our hope.

**Read through some of THESE VERSES** about joy. Pick one that speaks to you and look it up in its context (the chapter or surrounding verses).

#### DISCUSSION

- How have you experienced joy through hardship, heartbreak, or sorrow?
- How do you experience the interplay between joy, hope, wonder, and gratitude? When has one led to the other?
- Where have you found joy that was hard to recognize at first, or where you didn't expect it?
- Which image from the Bishop's video stood out to you? Why?
- Which Scripture passage stuck out to you and what might God be speaking through it to your life circumstances today?

#### ARTICLES

Learn more about the biblical meaning of joy at the Bible Project through an audio message or a video:

<https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/joy/> or [here](#) through an article.

Read about the relationship between joy and gratitude with Brené Brown:

<https://globalleadership.org/articles/leading-yourself/brene-brown-on-joy-and-gratitude/>

#### TAKE-AWAY

To move toward joy, list the things you're grateful for, or start a gratitude journal this week.

*Use this article for prompts of things about which you can offer gratitude:*

<https://www.jackcanfield.com/blog/6-daily-gratitude-habits-that-will-attract-more-abundance-and-joy-into-your-life/>

#### PRAYER

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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