

JOY



IN THE MIDST

WEEK 2: JOY...IN SPITE OF MY PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (PHILIPPIANS 1)

***Celebrate anyone from your group or friends/family of anyone in your group who were baptized last weekend (August 24-25) or last Thursday (August 29).

WELCOME

Name a song that instantly puts you in a good mood whenever you hear it?

WORD

1. Read and reflect **Habakkuk 3:17-19**...In verse 17, what struggles does Habakkuk mention? In verses 18-19, what three titles does he use to refer to God? What did God do that caused Habakkuk to be joyful?

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2. Read **Philippians 1:3-6**. What are some things that Paul is thankful for? How does he express his gratitude? How can you better incorporate gratitude in your life and prayers?

3. If you feel comfortable doing so, share about a time when you found joy despite a difficult season.

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4. Apply the JOY acronym:

- **Jesus First** – What spiritual disciplines and practices can you integrate in your life to keep Jesus first?
- **Others Second** – How does serving others help us during our difficult circumstances?
- **Yourself Last** – What are some practical ways to overcome the “gravitational pull” to place ourselves first?

***NOTE: “Yourself Last” doesn’t mean you neglect yourself—it means you love God and love people by placing others before yourself just like Jesus did for us (**Matthew 22:37-40; Philippians 2:3-4**).

WORSHIP

In the video lesson, Shynna Valencia asked, “Who are the Philippians in our lives?” (the ones who have encouraged you, walked with you, bring a smile to your face, etc.). To brag on God and give Him all the glory, share about how He used one or two people to be a Philippian to you.

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WITNESS

In the video lesson, Shynna Valencia also asked, “Who in your life are you being a Philippian to?” Continuing from last week, which person in your life needs to see this joy in your life? Were you able to demonstrate a joy when you were around this person?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

- Memorize **Philippians 1:6**
- Read **Habakkuk 3** and identify how **Habakkuk 3:17-19** fits into the entire chapter.
- Apply the JOY acronym to your life each day this week.
 - Before your day starts, ask yourself questions like:
 - **Jesus First:** Where in your life does Jesus to be first?
 - **Others Second:** Who needs to be second?
 - **Yourself Last:** What does it look like for you to put God and others first?
 - After your day ends, ask yourself questions like:
 - **Jesus First:** What did you do to put Jesus first? Did you feel like Jesus was first?
 - **Others Second:** Who did you prioritize and how did you help them?
 - **Yourself Last:** How did you place Jesus and others before yourself?