



joy

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

WEEK 1 — JOY IN CREATION

Genesis 1:26–31

Big Idea

God creates humanity in his image to represent him and steward his world with joy; in Christ, the true Image, our dignity and purpose are restored.

Discussion Starters

1. Where do people around you look for identity and worth? What happens when those sources shift?
2. What from Sunday's sermon most challenged your view of being made in God's image?

Read Genesis 1:26–31

1. What stands out in the wording “Let us make man... in our image” (vv26–27), and what does that signal about human uniqueness?
2. From vv26–27, what does “image/likeness” imply about humanity's role in creation?
3. What tasks are given in vv28–30, and how do they frame our daily work?
4. How should we read “subdue” and “have dominion” alongside God's goodness in the chapter?

5. What does “very good” (v31) add to the tone of the whole passage?
6. How does the NT pick up Genesis 1 (e.g., Col 1:15; 3:10) to show Jesus as the true Image—and how does that restore our vocation described here?
7. Which part of vv26–31 most corrects common cultural views of identity, work, or creation?

Transformation

- Where does Genesis 1:26–31 most reframe how you see yourself this week?
- What one act of stewardship (home/work/creation-care) will you practise because of vv28–30?
- How can our group help one another reflect God’s image (specific prayer/accountability)?

WEEK 2 — JOY IN DELIVERANCE

Deuteronomy 32:1–4, 36–47; Exodus 15:1–6

Big Idea

The Lord our Rock delivers and sustains; remembering his rescue fuels joyful obedience - and in Christ, the new Exodus secures our freedom.

Discussion Starters

1. Share a song that marks a turning point in your life. What did it help you remember?
2. What line from Sunday most expanded your view of God as “the Rock”?

Read Deuteronomy 32:1–4, 36–47 and Exodus 15:1–6

1. How do the titles and actions for God in Deut 32:4 (“Rock... ways are just...”) shape your security and joy?
2. Why does Moses insist God’s word is “your life” (Deut 32:46–47), not “empty words”?
3. What features of the Lord’s deliverance are sung in Exod 15:1–2?
4. In Exod 15:3–6, how do power and justice appear, and what pastoral cautions do we need when reading them?

5. How does the NT describe a “new exodus” in Christ, and how does that deepen the joy and obedience Deut 32/Exod 15 call for?
6. What practices help God’s people remember rescue (Deut 32:46–47; Exod 15’s song)?
7. Where do these passages invite you to trust God’s timing of justice rather than forcing your own?

Transformation

- Which truth about God as Rock (Deut 32:4) could you rehearse daily—and how?
- How could you build one remembering habit (song, verse, journal) so rescue fuels obedience?
- Whom might you entrust to God’s justice this week, and what prayer will you pray?

WEEK 3 — JOY IN RELATIONSHIP

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Big Idea

The Lord dwells with his people and rejoices over them; in Christ, God is with us and places his joy in us.

Discussion Starters

1. When have you felt genuinely “rejoiced over”? What did that do in you?
2. What from Sunday corrected a harsh or distant picture of God?

Read Zephaniah 3:14–20

1. List God’s actions in vv15–17. Which one most reveals his heart?
2. How does “the King... in your midst” (vv15,17) re-shape life in a fearful context?
3. What does “he will quiet you by his love” (v17) look like when shame is noisy?
4. How do vv18–20 address loss, shame, and reputation in the community?
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5. How do Jesus’ names/promises (Immanuel; John 15:11) fulfil Zeph 3’s presence-and-joy theme?

6. Which phrases in this passage most need to be prayed over your situation right now?

7. How might our church mirror God's rejoicing stance toward the weak and outcast?

Transformation

- Where could you invite God's quieting love (v17) to speak into shame or fear this week?

- What's one way your group might rejoice over someone in a restorative way?

- Which line from vv15–17 could you pray each day, and for whom?

WEEK 4 — JOY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Psalm 37:1–7; Psalm 1:1–3

Big Idea

Joy grows as we trust God's justice and root ourselves in his Word; ultimately, Christ the Righteous One fulfils the Psalms and shares his life with us.

Discussion Starters

1. When has envy (Ps 37:1) stolen your peace?
2. Which image from Sunday most helped you picture a righteous, joyful life?

Read Psalm 37:1–7; Psalm 1:1–3

1. Which imperatives in Ps 37:3–7 challenge you most, and why?
2. How does “delight in the LORD” (37:4) transform what we desire?
3. What does “commit your way” (37:5) look like in a concrete decision this week?
4. Contrast the images: the wicked as grass (37:2) vs the righteous as a tree (Ps 1:3).
5. What does meditating day and night (Ps 1:2) look like in modern routines?

6. How does the NT locate true righteousness in Christ (e.g., 1 Cor 1:30), and how does that deepen what these psalms call us to?
7. How do these psalms redefine prosperity/fruitfulness for you?

Transformation

- Which one imperative (37:3–7) might you practise this week—and how?
- What Word-habit could you build (Ps 1:2–3) and when might you do it?
- Where could you replace envy with gratitude tomorrow?

WEEK 5 – JOY IN PARTNERSHIP

Philippians 4:10–20; 2:12–18

Big Idea

Joy thrives in gospel partnership, contentment in Christ, and Spirit-empowered obedience.

Discussion Starters

1. Where do you most feel discontent biting at your heels?
2. What from Sunday clarified the difference between “contentment” and “complacency”?

Read Philippians 4:10–20; 2:12–18

1. What has Paul learned about contentment in 4:11–13, and how did he learn it?
2. How do gifts become “a fragrant offering” (4:18) and what does that reveal about partnership?
3. How does 4:19 encourage generous, risk-taking partnership?
4. How do we hold together “work out your salvation” and “for God works in you” (2:12–13)?
5. What dims Christian witness in 2:14–16, and how can we “shine” instead?

6. Where do you see joy explicitly or implicitly motivating obedience in these passages?
7. What concrete form might partnership take for our group this term?

Transformation

- Which circumstance could you practise contentment in this week, and what might that look like?
- How might you partner (pray/give/serve/encourage) before next meeting?
- Where do you need to replace grumbling with gratitude tomorrow?

WEEK 6 — JOY IN FULFILMENT

Luke 1:39–56; 1:57–80

Big Idea

In Mary's Magnificat and Zechariah's Benedictus, joy overflows as God keeps ancient promises in the coming of Christ.

Discussion Starters

1. Share a moment when God's faithfulness surprised you.
2. What from Sunday drew your attention to God's mercy across generations?

Read Luke 1:39–56; 1:57–80

1. What fuels Mary's joy in 1:46–50, and what does that teach us about praise?
2. How do 1:51–55 describe the kingdom's reversals, and who benefits?
3. What covenant notes ring through 1:54–55 and 1:72–75?
4. In 1:68–75, what specific deliverances are named, and toward what purpose?
5. How is John's vocation described in 1:76–79, and what hope imagery stands out?

6. Where do you see humility and boldness together in these songs?
7. Which line from the Magnificat or Benedictus most speaks into your situation now - and why?

Transformation

- Which verse from Luke 1 could you pray/sing this week, and when?
- What hidden act of mercy could you practise because of God's mercy to the lowly?
- Where could you serve without fear (1:74) in the coming days?

WEEK 7 — JOY IN RESTORATION

Revelation 7:9–17

Big Idea

Before the Lamb, a diverse multitude finds shelter; worship replaces weeping—forever.

Discussion Starters

1. What picture of the future most strengthens you today?
2. What from Sunday grew your longing for the nations to know Jesus?

Read Revelation 7:9–17

1. What does the multitude from every nation (v9) reveal about God’s global purpose?
2. How does the crowd’s confession in v10 centre salvation on God and the Lamb?
3. What does it mean that robes are washed in the Lamb’s blood (v14)?
4. How do vv15–17 describe God’s present care and final comfort?
5. How does the “great tribulation” context shape our understanding of present suffering?

6. What aspects of the scene correct thin or individualistic views of worship?
7. Which image in this passage most fuels perseverance for you right now—and why?

Transformation

- Who could you pray for by name from “every nation” this week (mission partners, neighbours)?
- Where do you need to endure with hope—and which verse here will you carry into that?
- How can your group preview heaven’s welcome in one tangible way?

The background is a solid light pink color, decorated with numerous small, colorful circular confetti pieces in shades of blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink, scattered across the entire surface.

small groups

LIFE TOGETHER