



Growth Group Questions
April 26, 2026
“For Joy”

CONTEXT

This week's sermon will focus on the second fruit of the spirit, joy. In Luke 2, the shepherds are out watching their sheep when an angel of the Lord comes to tell them that “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”

The fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians talks about the outcome of being connected with God. It is like a tree and its branches. In John 15, Jesus teaches us that when we are connected to the vine, we then produce fruit like that of a branch. Therefore, in order to produce joy, we have to first make sure that we are truly working on our relationship to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says that He is the Vine and therefore we are allowed to produce the fruit of the spirit only if we are connected to Him through prayer, faith, and obedience. Too many times we work hard to produce fruit that only arrives when we build a trusting relationship with our God. As we look at the good news of the gospel, remember that Jesus offers us this gift that we can accept if we stay connected to His Holy Presence.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:10

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

John 15:1-11

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever



does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[L] my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the “good news of great joy” that the angel spoke about in Luke 2:10? Why is it significant that this “good news” is for “all people”?
2. In John 15:1-11, Jesus tells us that He is the “true vine,” emphasizing that we must abide in Him if we are to bear fruit. Pastor Eileen said that abiding in God is an “intentional practice.” What does that mean to you?
3. This week, we are looking at “joy” as one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. How would you describe the kind of “joy” that is a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
4. Is there a difference between joy as a fruit of the Holy Spirit and ordinary happiness? If so, what makes that difference?
5. In John 15:11, Jesus says “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you. . . .” How would you describe the joy that Jesus had?
6. What do you think is the key to experiencing Jesus’ joy in your life?
7. What Bible verses help you to understand the kind of joy God wants us to have in our lives?
8. What can we practically do to remain joyful even in difficult circumstances?
9. What lessons did you learn from studying John 15:1-11?

