

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – December 11 -16**  
***Doing Life Together – Joy***

**MONDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Romans 15:13

**OBSERVATION:** The goal of every Christian should not be happiness because the Bible never promises happiness to the believer but joy, that is a totally different story. While happiness is temporary and is based upon happenings, joy is from the Lord and you can still experience joy during trials, suffering, and testing. Joy is permanent but happiness is fleeting.

**TUESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** James 1:2-3

**OBSERVATION:** Jesus experienced joy but it was also a focus for Him while He suffered excruciatingly on the cross. In fact, the root word for excruciating is the crucifixion. Joy can help you endure suffering too, but none of us will ever have to experience what Jesus did at Calvary and during the Passion Week but God is the true source of lasting joy. The word for “count” as we are too “Count it all joy” is from the Greek word “hēgeomai” which means to lead or go before or to be a leader so our joy, which is from God, will go before our suffering, just as the above Scripture, Hebrew 12:2 said in how Jesus dealt with the enduring of the cross, but joy will come during and after our suffering too (John 16:22).

**WEDNESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** 1 Peter 1:8-9

**OBSERVATION:** What an encouraging set of verses! We have not seen Him, yet we know He exists; we also believe in Him, although we have not yet fully received the consummation of our belief; we rejoice in Him “with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” If joy is inexpressible, then how can I describe what is indescribable? Only those who trust in the Lord have this joy that I cannot nor could Peter even describe. Now that’s glorious.

**THURSDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

**OBSERVATION:** Paul was so joyful and this seems ironic because he suffered like none of the other disciples did. Why was his joy so abounding? It was because of the members in the church, particularly the church at Philippi. Paul was telling the church that they were his joy because they were enduring persecution and enduring it with joy and so this produced joy in Paul.

**FRIDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Psalm 28:7

**OBSERVATION:** The Lord is our source of strength ultimately because human joy lasts only for a time but what comes from the Lord is eternal and this includes Joy. The psalmist stated that his heart, the seat of the intellect in the Jewish genre, leaped for joy and that made him break out in songs of praise. Ever felt that way? Nehemiah tells the Jews in verse 8:10 to “not be grieved, for [or because] the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Here again we see that the true source of joy is from God and joy produces strength.

**SATURDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Isaiah 12:6

**OBSERVATION:** Can you imagine how joyful that will be for us someday when we see Christ and we are finally in the Kingdom of Heaven? We won’t only sing for joy but we will shout for joy! Have you ever been so joyful that you actually shouted? I did at my baptism and the birth of my children and when my girlfriend became my fiancé and later my wife! When we see Jesus, we can multiply that as an exponent to the nth power.

Portions of this Bible Reading Program was taken from an article written by Jack Wellman