

SERMON SERIES: THE DIFFERENCE HE MAKES

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Sermon title:

“The Difference He Makes: JOY”

Introduction

We began a new series this past week called The Difference He Makes. In this series, we will be going through the different fruits of the Spirit and looking at the difference they can make in our lives. Specifically, we are talking about the difference Jesus makes in our lives through these fruits. Last week we began with the fruit of love, learning about how love is a description of who Jesus wants us to be. This week we are learning about joy.

- Share a memory where you felt joyful. What was a time in your life when you felt blissful, happy, or delighted?

Seek the Word

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

- How does joy relate to the other fruits of the Spirit?
- What makes joy different than happiness?

Read Philippians 4:4-7.

- Verse 5 tells us that the Lord is near. What does Paul mean when he uses the word “near”?
- What does this passage tell us about the importance of prayer?
- What does this passage tell us about who God is?

Go Deeper

This week we look a bit at the book of Philippians for reference on how to rejoice in all situations. Take some time to look into the history and context of the book of Philippians. This will help you have a better understanding of the significance of our text this week.

Talk About It

- What does it look like to “rejoice always” in your own life? How can you do this?
- The things we celebrate are the things that are elevated to influence in our lives. What do you find yourself celebrating each day? Are these things a good influence?
- How can we practice intentional gratitude each day?
- Who in your life can you celebrate and show gratitude towards this week? How can you use this as an opportunity to point them toward Jesus?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Grateful people are joyful people.

Challenge: Keep a gratitude journal for this week. Each day, take a moment to write down a handful of things you are thankful for. They can be big or small, and as many or as few as you like. At the end of the week, say a prayer thanking God for these different blessings.