



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

August 16, 2026 - Pastor Scott Allen

Pursuing Joy (Psalm 16)

Discussion Starter

- What is one thing that most people find silly or insignificant that you find an irrational amount of happiness in? (This question isn't meant to be theological—just a fun conversation starter!)
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Reflection Questions

- Scott argued that every person is always motivated by the pursuit of happiness. How have you seen this tendency play out, either in your own life or in the lives of others?
 - Read aloud through Psalm 16 together as a group. Look for all the language this Psalm uses around themes of joy and desire. How does David use this language, and why?
 - Is joy incompatible with sorrow and other negative emotions, or are there times in the Christian life where the two overlap? What does it look like to foster joy when our hearts are also struggling with sadness, anxiety, etc.?
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Application Questions

- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* How can the *joy* of our church be a missional asset? Do you think it makes a difference whether non-Christians perceive us as a joyful people?

- (Personal implications) Scott shared that he chose this sermon series (*The Fullness of Joy: Glorify God by Pursuing Joy in Him*) because he personally needs it. Are you in a similar season of needing a renewal of joy? Share where you've been lately spiritually. How might God want to use this series on joy to speak to your heart and circumstances?
- (Personal implications) Scott shared three lies that often keep us from finding joy in God: lies about his *character* (God is a cosmic killjoy), lies about his *commands* (they're meant to keep us away from fun and pleasure), and lies about his *creation* (we can find ultimate satisfaction in the things of this world). Which lie do you think exerts the strongest pull on you? What could it look like to fight this lie with biblical truth?
- (Missional implications) Consider the people in your mission field or people you're having gospel conversations with. Where do you think they are seeking ultimate joy? What is it about the gospel that makes it more compelling than these alternatives?

Closing Scripture: read through Isaiah 55:1–3 and 10–13 aloud as a group.

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Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"