



Sermon Discussion Guide

Joy Begins with Seeking God

Series: Restoring Joy

Main Text: 2 Chronicles 34:1–7

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there’s no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

Icebreaker Options

1. What's a hobby, skill, or interest you've pursued over the years that required intentional effort to get better?
2. If you could spend a day learning from any person in history, who would you choose and why?

Leader's Note

King Josiah inherited a difficult situation, yet he chose a different path. His story reminds us that no matter our background or circumstances, God can restore joy when we intentionally seek Him and place Him first.

1. God Can Raise Up Passion Even in Spiritually Dark Times

Key Scripture

2 Chronicles 34:3 – "While he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father."

Discuss

- Have you ever seen someone choose a different path than the one they inherited? What impact did that have on you?
- Are there any past experiences, family patterns, or disappointments that tempt you to believe change isn't possible?
- How can you pursue God faithfully, even if the people around you are not?

Leader's Note

Josiah's environment did not determine his destiny. God can work in and through people regardless of their background, family history, or circumstances.

2. Seeking God Requires Intentionality

Key Scripture

Hebrews 2:1 – "We must pay much closer attention... lest we drift away from it."

Discuss

- What areas of life naturally receive your attention and energy?
- What habits currently help you move toward God?
- What is one practical step you could take this week to be more intentional in your relationship with Christ?

Leader's Note

Nobody accidentally grows spiritually. A healthy relationship with God is cultivated through consistent, intentional choices, including time spent studying God's Word.

3. God Must Be More Than an Addition to Your Life

Key Scripture

Matthew 6:33 – "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

Discuss

- What are some things that can compete for first place in our lives?
- Have you ever found yourself wanting God's blessings without fully surrendering to Him?
- Is there an area of your life that God may be asking you to reorder or place under His authority?

Leader's Note

Josiah didn't simply add God to everything else; he removed the things that competed with God. Joy grows when Christ becomes our priority rather than just another item on the list.

4. Joy Begins with Relationship

Key Scripture

John 14:6 – "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Discuss

- What is the difference between following religious routines and pursuing a relationship with God?
- When are you most likely to treat spiritual disciplines as obligations instead of opportunities to know God?
- How can you cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ this week?

Leader's Note

God desires our hearts, not merely our performance. Spiritual disciplines matter, but they are meant to draw us into a deeper relationship with Him, not become boxes to check.

Closing Prayer

Spend time thanking God that our past does not have to define our future. Ask Him to restore joy by drawing each person into a deeper relationship with Him. Pray for the needs shared by the group and ask God to help each person seek Him first this week.