

## ***The Weary World Rejoices – Psalm 4:7-8, Psalm 16:8-11***

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

These Psalms point us to the joy that comes from knowing Christ the Savior of the world. There is a sense of what is to come. It points out the joy we have and can anticipate in a greater sense when believers find themselves in the presence of God. The brokenness of this world can really make it difficult to live in light of this joy. It is easy to become overwhelmed with the difficulties and struggles of life and miss the great joy given to us by God. Let's take a look at a couple of questions from this section.

### **Discussion Questions\* -- \*do not feel the pressure to cover them all**

1. Psalm 4:7-8 points out that God has placed joy in our heart, and He has done it an exceeding way. The illustration using grain and wine is an example of having much or maybe wealth. The psalmist points out that God has given us more joy than if we have all riches. This is truly a gift from God, and we know that this joy will ultimately be fulfilled when we are in His presence in heaven. Do you find yourself walking in this joy or is this more of something you wish were true of you? How might a Christian live in light of this joy regardless of their circumstances?
2. In v. 8 of Psalm 4 we see this peace that God gives us that allows us to lie down and sleep and dwell safely. It reads that “for you alone, O LORD,” are to make me dwell in safety. One of our biggest struggles with living in the peace and joy of God is that we have struggles with our expectations and our nostalgia. We create desired expectations and also try to relive a moment in the past that gave us a good feeling. This is natural. How might trusting in “God alone” allow us to have realistic expectations and our nostalgia be around the things God has done? How has your expectations or fear of unmet expectations stolen your joy? What are some examples of how you have set your eyes on Christ and experienced joy in an extremely difficult time?
3. Psalm 16:8-11 points out that God has given us this path to joy through the path of life. We know this path of life to be Christ who was raised from the dead. In v. 8 we are told to “set the Lord always before me.” Because Christ is at the right hand of the Father, we shall not be shaken, and our hearts may be glad and our whole being rejoices. God has made known the path of life and in Christ's presence there is fullness of joy and at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. This path is given to us by God. Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life. How are we able to rejoice in this life even when our anticipation of something turns into discouragement? There is a future focus to this passage

where Christ will make things right and we will be in His presence. Do you find this to be a real motivator of joy in your life? Why or why not? Even though we live in the brokenness of this world we get used to it and at times can't imagine life beyond it. How does the Psalmist teach us to pursue the time to come and navigate this broken world with joy?

4. Who do you know today that needs to know the hope we have in Christ, the joy we are provided, and the gospel we have been given to be rescued? Would you pray for them. Would you ask God to give you an opportunity this week to share with them?