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# JOY - WEEK # 1

## Week # 1: The Joy of the Holy Spirit



Joy! For many, it's the season of joy - the joy of Jesus' birth, of family, and of giving gifts and receiving them. But for others...it's not. How does one have joy? How do we live into joy? During this Renovation Series we will explore the joy of a life found in God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take a moment and think about this time of year. Would you say that it is a joyful time of year for you personally? Why or why not?

2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.**

The passage opens with a thanksgiving from Paul to God, for the Thessalonians. Why is Paul thankful for them? Cite your evidences from the passage.

3. **Re-read 1 Thessalonians 1:6.**

As a group discuss the connection between suffering and joy in this verse. Is it possible to be suffering and yet have joy? How does one do this or have this joy in the midst of suffering?

Why are the Thessalonians joyful? How is their joy a blessing to others?

Using a map in your Bible or via online resources, find the ancient regions of Macedonia and Achaia. Note Thessalonica's location in relation to them. What does this say about the power of God's joy at work in us as others witness it?

4. Part of the suffering of the Thessalonians was the persecution they experienced because of their newfound faith in Jesus Christ. How is their joy evidence of Romans 8:18 - that "our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us?"

5. **Read Nehemiah 8:-9-12.** This passage follows a hearing of Scripture and the desires of God for the people's lives, much like the Thessalonians heard the gospel and realized the desires of God for their lives. Is the joy of the Lord your strength in life?

### **BE THE REVOLUTION**

God longs for his joy to be ours.

### **RENOVATING THE HEART**

*"And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (1 Thessalonians 1:6).*