

GOOD
NEWS
GREAT
JOY

Joy is an experience given by the Trinity that infects all of life,
informs every day and energizes each tomorrow.

Context #1: God's _____ (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

"The powerful exposition of God's Word can bring deep conviction of sin. But, repentance must not degenerate into a self-centered remorse but must issue into joy in God's forgiving goodness."
Edwin Yamauchi

Context #2: God's _____ are a derivative source of joy!

John – 1 John 1:1-4

Paul – Acts 15:3, 2 Cor. 1:24, 2:3, 7:13, Phil. 1:25, 2:2, 4:1,
1 Thess. 2:19-20, 3:9

Context #3: Worship – what does joy look like in the _____?

Shout for joy (16x)

"shout" –

- Why do we shout? _____
- Who shouts? _____

"befits" –

- How do we shout? _____

Sing for joy (9x)

- Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19 – we sing for each other!

Make a joyful noise (3x)

"joyful noise" –

Context #1: God's Word

1. What are recent responses of yours to understanding God's Word?
2. In response to your understanding of God's Word, throw a "joy party" this Christmas and invite your friends and be generous to people who have little.

Context #2: God's People

1. What do I do if I have been hurt by God's people?
 - a. Recognize the power you have to overlook offenses and sin.
 - Proverbs 19:11 – *"Good sense makes someone slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense."*
 - 1 Peter 4:8 – *"Above all keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."*
 - b. Recognize others' weakness and help. (Galatians 6:1)
 - c. Recognize you need to go and confront. (Matthew 18:15-17)
2. How do you live in such a way as to be with God's people?

What stories do you share about people that bring joy to yourself and others? Who in your life brings you joy as you interact with them or as you view the way they live their life?
3. How critical am I of God's people?
4. Why am I not in a Life Group?

Context #3: Worship

1. Where do I express my most overt joyful emotion? What informs these joyful responses? What drives them?
2. Has my family seen me as joyfully responsive to worshipping Jesus as a touchdown in football?
3. How big and personal is my view of God, the work of Jesus and the power of the Spirit? Does it regularly prompt within me joyful emotional responses?
4. What do I do during corporate worship?
5. What would it take for me to shout for joy, sing for joy, or make a joyful noise?