

REFLECTION GUIDE

9.3.23

INTRO

The joy and peace that come from our connection to God have more to do with who God is than they do with our present circumstances. When we most value what God offers us, our perspective changes!

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Loving God, I know you to be faithful, and I am grateful that you never change. I am sorry for the times when I have allowed my circumstances to turn my head and cause me to stray from the truth of who you are.

Help me remember that others are encouraged to seek you when they see that joy and peace are evident in my life. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Consider the difference between circumstantial happiness and joy that comes from your relationship with God. Which do you experience most often? Why?
- Some clues about the source of true joy can be inferred from Jude 1:24-25. "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." [NIV]
 - Who is the writer referring to at the beginning of the passage, "to him"?
 - What two things can you identify in the passage that contribute to our "great joy"?
- What connections do you think exist between peace and joy? How might that play out in the life of a follower of Jesus?
- Read James 1:1-4.
 - Have you ever met someone who was enduring great suffering who also exhibited peace and joy?
 - Why do you think that was the case?
 - Why do you think James connects joy with endurance and maturity?
- Do you think it is possible to effectively share your faith without exhibiting peace and joy in your life? Why or why not?