



BREAKING THE ICE

Who is one person you know that always has a joyful presence?

What is one thing that brings joy to your life?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we started our summer series called. "Frequency of Joy". Lisa Harper kicked off the series talking about the genesis of joy being from God.

1. How do you feel joy from God? If not, what do you think keeps you from thinking about God being joyful?

Lisa told an embarrassing story about how when she was in church as a child she had a fear the pastor was angry with her for passing gas. But instead of being angry, he told her it was the most fun he has had in a church service in a long time. Instead of anger there was joy in his voice.

2. Describe a time when you were surprised by joy in a situation.

God is the beginning of joy. Some of us may have grown up thinking His tendency would be more angry but the truth is God takes delight in us.

Read Zephaniah 3:17

3. After reading this scripture how do you respond to God delighting in you and Him rejoicing in singing over you?

In His kindness God makes us the object of His joy. He delights in us.

Read Matthew 18:15-17

In this story Jesus tells us to treat others as a pagan or tax collector. He is referencing how He treated the pagans and tax collectors. When Jesus met Matthew, a tax collector who was disliked by many people, Jesus loved him. He took him in and asked Matthew to follow Him. Jesus loved those who were unloved by the masses.

4. How does your thinking change from this reference on how Jesus had joy and love for those the world would say are unlovable?

Jesus was contagious with His joy for all people. He opened His arms wider for those who did not know Him so they could feel His love.

5. Who do you know who has contagious joy in their life? What brings them that joy?

God's unconditional love for us is the genesis of joy. We have a perfect, holy, kind and compassionate God who lets us know we are His delight.

6. How can you be rooted in knowing you delight God and are a source of His joy?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you God for delighting in us. Thank you for reminding us that we are your joy. Please help us to delight in you and feel the joy you have for us deeply. Help us have that same joy for others. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Take time this week to read over Zephaniah 3:17. Ask God to help you feel His delight in you this week.

+ Write down the things that bring you joy and thank God for them.