

The Joy-Driven God-Centered Life

Session 11: Joy-Driven God-Centered Ministry



How can we approach Sunday Mornings in a Joy-Driven, God-Centered way?



How can we approach Bible Study and Small Groups in a Joy-Driven, God-Centered way?

Displaying joy in God:

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father.” (Matthew 5:16)

Joy in God cannot be contained, but will flow out of us through a life of obedience to God, love to others, and service in His Church.

We long for every believer to live to show the world the splendor of God as they demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit and use their God-given gifts to serve others in joy and in love.

Our church offers many ministry opportunities for us to serve as we display joy in God to each other and to the world.



1. **JOY AND LOVE CANNOT BE SEPARATED.** Loving God involves being attracted to Him, delighting in Him, treasuring Him, and taking pleasure in Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. Loving others means wanting them to share in this same joy, so that they will also find their delight in the only One who can provide them complete and abundant joy that will never end.
 - a. **With God:** “Though you have not seen him, you **love** him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with **joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” (1 Pet. 1:8)
 - b. **With others:** ^{1:24} Not that we lord it over your faith, but *we work with you for your **joy***, for you stand firm in your faith. ^{2:1} For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that *my **joy** would be the **joy** of you all.* ⁴ For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but *to let you know the abundant **love** that I have for you.*” (2 Cor. 1:24-2:4)

2. THE BIBLE CALLS US TO SERVE. God never intended for us to live in isolation. God consistently calls us to serve Him and to serve others (especially the family of believers).

- a. **We were saved to serve:** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- b. **We are commanded to serve:** “¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:10-13)
- c. **We are equipped to serve:** “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

3. THE BIBLE CALLS US TO SERVE IN GOD-CENTERED WAYS. God is central to both the aim of our service (for God's glory) and to the means of our service (with God's strength).

- a. **For God's Glory:** We serve for the glory of God—not so that others will make much of us. When we serve in Christ-like ways, we put the attributes of God on display and open a window of heaven so that its light shines out, giving credibility to our words about God.
 - i. “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father.” (Matthew 5:16)
 - ii. “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12)
- b. **With God's Strength:** We do not serve in order to meet God's needs—rather we serve God joyfully knowing that He is meeting all of our needs. We honor God when we admit our weakness and acknowledge His strength. Our service to God does not indebted God to us.
 - i. “God is not served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things.” (Acts 17:25)
 - ii. “⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:8-11)

4. **THE BIBLE CALLS US TO SERVE IN JOY-DRIVEN WAYS.** Our service is to be done gladly—not grudgingly. When we delight in God ourselves, we can serve God and others gladly recognizing God’s great worth, longing to put His goodness on display and desiring for others to find their joy in Him.

“In some sense the most benevolent, generous person in the world seeks his own happiness in doing good to others, because he places his happiness in their good. His mind is so enlarged as to take them, as it were, into himself. Thus when they are happy, he feels it; he partakes with them, and is happy in their happiness. This is so far from being inconsistent with the freeness of beneficence, that, on the contrary free benevolence and kindness consists in it.” (J. Edwards)

- a. **Serve the Lord joyfully:** “Serve the Lord *with gladness!*” (Psalm 100:2)
- b. **Give out of joy:** ¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their *abundance of joy* and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us *earnestly* for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints... ⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 8)
- c. **Give with joy:** “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a *cheerful giver.*” (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- d. **Give anticipating greater joy still to come:** “Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, *an unfailing treasure in heaven*, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.” (Luke 12:33)
- e. **Lead joyfully:** “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder... shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but *willingly*, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but *eagerly.*” (1 Peter 5:1-2)
- f. **Let others lead joyfully:** “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. *Let them do this with joy* and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17)
- g. **Disciple joyfully:** “I have no greater *joy* than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” (3 John 1:4)
- h. **Suffer joyfully:** “But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and *accepted joyfully the seizure of your property*, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.” (Heb.10:32-34)
- i. **Remember the example of Jesus going after joy:** “...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, *who for the joy* that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

SHAPE Profile

WHERE SHOULD WE SERVE? How do we determine our role in God's work to fulfill His purposes? We should each know our SHAPE, but we need to first recognize a couple of other elements:

1. Recognize that all ministry, service and acts of love should align with God's purposes.

"...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began." (2 Timothy 1:9)

2. Understand that even though you have a certain SHAPE, God might want to stretch you.

"But Moses said to the Lord, 'Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.'" (Exodus 4:10-12)

Spiritual Gifts: How has God gifted you?

"...But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another." (1 Corinthians 7:7b)

Below are some gifts mentioned in the Bible. Which gifts do you think God has given you?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration (1 Cor. 12:28) | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing (1 Cor. 12:9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Miracles (1 Cor. 12:10,28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discernment (1 Cor. 1:10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps (1 Cor. 12:28) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor (Eph. 4:11,12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism (1 Cor. 4:11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9,10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecy (Rom. 12:6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhortation (Rom 12:8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Service (Rom. 12:6,7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith (1 Cor. 12:9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership (Rom. 12:8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching (Rom. 12:7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving (Rom. 12:2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercy (Rom. 12:8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongues (Rom. 12:7) |

Heart: How is God directing your affections?

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

1. What do you love doing?
2. Who do you love to work with most?
3. What types of ministries most excite you?

Abilities: What talents has God given you?

"And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship." (Exodus 31:3)

1. What skills/abilities have you acquired?
2. What do you feel that you are good at?
3. What do others affirm you in?

***P*ersonality: How has God shaped your character?**

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.” (Psalm 139:13)

1. Have you in the past attempted to serve in ways that did not seem to fit your personality?
2. Have you in the past served in ways that did seem to fit your personality?
3. Consider how you rate on these four personality aspects:

	Extreme		Mild	Mild		Extreme	
Introverted	3	2	1	1	2	3	Extroverted
Self-controlled	3	2	1	1	2	3	Self-expressive
Loves routine	3	2	1	1	2	3	Loves variety
Cooperative	3	2	1	1	2	3	Competitive

***E*xperience: What experiences has God used to equip you for His purposes?**

“[God] comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:4)

1. What spiritual experiences has God given you?
2. What painful experiences has God given you?
3. What educational experiences has God given you?
4. What ministry experiences has God given you?

Summary: After reviewing the SHAPE God has given me, I feel I am best shaped for the following ministries or types of service: