

The Joy-Driven God-Centered Life

Session 12: Joy-Driven God-Centered Evangelism & Missions.

How would you describe the Joy-Driven God-Centered Life?

How is joy in God different from each of the following?

- Just being joyful?
- Finding joy in God's *gifts*?
- Seeking joy *from* God?
- Joy as a fruit of the Spirit?

Being a Deliberate Disciple:



Discovering Joy in God: *Sunday Morning Services.*

Have you embraced God as your greatest Treasure, made possible through faith in Christ?

Are you committed to continually discovering more of God's greatness and splendor?



Developing Joy in God: *Bible Studies/Small Groups.*

Are you personally seeking to develop joy in God through regular time with God in His Word?

Are you regularly pursuing delight in God through studying God's Word with other believers?



Displaying Joy in God: *Ministry/Service to Others.*

Does your life reflect deep contentment in God and an eagerness to display His goodness?

Are you routinely involved in joyfully serving others?



Declaring Joy in God: *Local Evangelism and Global Missions.*

Are you intentional about gladly sharing the Gospel with others around you?

Are you personally engaged in the missionary task through praying, giving, and going?

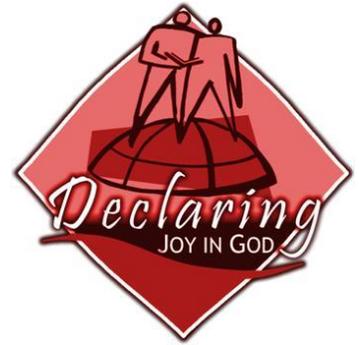
Declaring Joy in God:

“Declare his glory among the nations.” (Psalm 96:3a)

We are called to speak of God’s greatness in Christ everywhere.

We encourage all believers to seek opportunities to share the Gospel with people here at home and to share in the Great Commission through praying, giving, and going.

We also organize local outreaches and partner with international workers and organizations in their labor to see that the Church is established among all the world’s people groups.



1. **God is supremely committed to the declaration of His glory.** From Genesis through Revelation, the Bible tells of God’s unfolding plan to draw people from every people group into worship of Himself.
 - a. **Genesis 12:1-3.** “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘... I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you *all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”
 - b. **Psalms 96:3.** “Declare his glory *among the nations*, his marvelous works among *all the peoples!*”
 - c. **Luke 24:45-47.** “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be *proclaimed in his name to all nations*, beginning from Jerusalem.’”
 - d. **Revelation 5:9.** “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. *All nations will come and worship you*, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

2. **As believers, we are all called to participate in both Evangelism and Missions.** Regardless of whether or not we have the gift of evangelism, we are all called to participate in the spread of the Gospel both locally (within our own people group) and globally (to unreached people groups).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

 - a. **Evangelism:** Evangelism is sharing the Gospel with others, especially to those within our own culture or people group. This might include family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
 - i. **Consider the command of Jesus:** “And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and *proclaim the gospel* to the whole creation.’” (Mark 16:15)
 - ii. **Consider the example of the Apostles:** “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, *they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*” (Acts 5:42)

- b. **Missions:** When we speak of missions, we are referring to the preaching of the Gospel and the planting of Christ's church among people groups still unreached (with the expectation that those new believers will then carry out the task of evangelism within their own culture and context).
 - i. **Consider Paul describing his missionary work:** "But now, since *I no longer have any room for work in these regions* ... I hope to see you as I go to Spain." (Romans 15:23).
 - ii. **Consider John's vision of heaven:** "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God *from every tribe and language and people and nation.*'" (Revelation 5:9)
- 3. Joy in God *motivates* both Evangelism and Missions.** Zeal for God's glory should fuel our outreach efforts. The Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 ("Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...") is inseparable from the Great Commandment of Matthew 22:37-39 ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.")
- a. **First, love for God:** *Do we love God?* If so, we should want to see Him lifted up, and our hearts should align with His heart. If God's great passion is to be glorified through the worship of redeemed people from all people groups on earth, then we should share that passion. Our delight in God should inspire in us a longing to see Him praised as He ought to be by all peoples.
 - b. **Then, love for others:** *Do we love others?* If so, then we should desire the very best for them. The best thing we can give to anyone is the Gospel, which tells the way to be reconciled to God. Amazingly, as we seek to have others share our joy in God, we find that our own joy increases.
- 4. Joy in God is the *message* of Evangelism and Missions.** The world is full of people seeking pleasure in lesser things, missing the only thing that can truly satisfy their souls. The Gospel is the message that through Jesus we can have a restored relationship with God and have true joy that will last forever.
- a. "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself..." (2 Corinthians 5:18).
 - b. "...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11)
- 5. Joy in God is the *goal* of Evangelism and Missions.** Missions *is* important, but Piper reminds us that "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't...The goal of missions *is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God.*"
- a. **Jesus promised joy to those who are grafted into The Vine:** "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)
 - b. **Joy comes when we see others respond to and obey the Gospel:** "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 1:4)

- c. **Joy in God will one day be expressed by people of all people groups:** “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10)
6. **How can you become more involved in Evangelism?** Non-Christians surround us. So, how can you deepen your commitment to declaring joy in God? First and foremost you should pursue and cultivate *your own* joy in God. Along with that, ask yourself the following questions and make a plan for action:
- Are you praying regularly for the salvation of specific people?** Ask God to open their eyes to the truth, convict them of their sin, and incline their hearts towards Him.
 - Are you praying regularly for yourself?** Ask God to enable you to make the most of every opportunity and be able to share the Gospel with boldness, love, and clarity.
 - Are you always ready to share the Gospel?** Know how to share and defend the Gospel. Have a supply of tracts, Bibles, and invitations to key events ready to give out.
 - Are you intentional about building relationships with non-Christians?** Avoid spending all your time with believers. Get to know your neighbors. Serve them in love. Be a good friend.
 - Do you take advantage of our church’s organized activities?** Invite a friend to a worship service. Invite kids to AWANA. Pass out invitations to Easter. Join us at the Shasta Fair.
7. **How can you become more involved in Missions?** There are 2.5 billion people living in over 6,000 people groups still classified as “unreached.” How can each of us deepen our commitment to seeing them reached with the Gospel? Consider how you are doing in each of the following areas:
- Praying: Are you praying regularly for missions?** Sign up for a missionary’s email. Come to Prayer for the Nations each month. Pray as a family for a missionary each night at dinner.
 - Giving: Are you giving regularly to missions?** Commit to being a missionary’s financial partner. Stay aware of one-time needs. Help purchase supplies when missionaries are home.
 - Going: Can you honestly give a good reason why should *not* go?** Go on a short-term vision trip. Teach English overseas for one year. Commit to serving 2-3 years—*or more*.
 - Learning: What are you doing to stay informed about missions?** Consider purchasing “Operation Word.” Read a missionary biography. Subscribe to “Missions Frontiers.”
 - Welcoming: Are you looking for opportunities to welcome people of other cultures?** Be glad God has brought them to our area. Learn about their culture. Seek to befriend them.
 - Mobilizing: Are you encouraging others to keep missions a priority in their lives?** Share what you are learning. Challenge others to go. Pray that God would raise up more missionaries.