

The Joy-Driven God-Centered Life

Session 9: Joy-Driven God-Centered Sunday Mornings

God Intends For Us To Grow Together:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

Scriptural Metaphors for the Church:

A Body:

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”
(Colossians 1:18)

God’s Church is like a body. Jesus is the head. We are each parts of the body.

A Family:

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”
(Ephesians 2:19)

God’s Church is like a family. God is the head of household. We are each members of the family.

A Flock:

“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”
(John 10:16)

God’s Church is like a flock. Jesus is the shepherd. We are the sheep.

A Bride:

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”
(Ephesians 5:25-27)

God’s Church is like a bride. Jesus is the groom. Together we make up the bride.

A Building:

“So then you are...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

God’s Church is like a building. Jesus is the cornerstone. We are each a piece of the structure.

Our Mission: To inspire among all peoples an overflowing joy in God through Jesus Christ.

Our Discipleship Process:

Discovering joy in God:

Developing joy in God:

Displaying joy in God:

Declaring joy in God:

Our Vision: We envision accomplishing our mission by growing a joy-driven God-centered church family who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are continually and passionately discovering, developing, displaying, and declaring joy in God through Jesus Christ that all peoples might treasure Him above all things.

Discovering joy in God:

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8a)

God should be the supreme treasure of our lives. God is infinitely magnificent, and there will always be new facets of His glory to discover and delight in.

We pray that everyone will acknowledge Jesus as Savior, Lord and Treasure, holding Him to be more valuable than all else.

Our church designs our **Sunday Services** to focus our attention on God as we corporately give praise to Him and continually discover more of His splendor, supremacy, and sufficiency.



How are Neighborhood Church’s Sunday Services shaped?

Sermons:

How does a joy-driven God-centered perspective affect how God’s Word is taught?

As we worship God through together hearing His Word taught, what can each of us do to deepen our joy in God?

Worship singing:

How does a joy-driven God-centered perspective affect how singing God's praise is led?

As we worship God through together singing His praise, what can each of us do to deepen our joy in God?

How should we prepare ourselves for Sunday Morning Worship?

- 1. Reflect upon God (even starting Saturday evening). Ask God to satisfy you with Himself and enable you to sing praises to Him with joy.**

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. (Psalm 63:5-7)

- 2. Come expecting to gaze upon God's glory, to discover (and rediscover) great things about Him. Ask God to give you a heart that desires Him above all other things.**

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)

- 3. Put on a spirit of repentance and come with a humble heart. Ask God to teach you new things, to reveal hidden sin, to change your heart, and to correct errors in your thinking.**

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

- 4. Be prepared to *think* about what is being taught. Ask God to give you understanding.**

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 5. Put aside a critical spirit. Ask God to help you show love to others out of joy in Him.**

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Peter 3:8)



Discovering

joy in God

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" (Psalm 34:8a)

Discover: (v.) To see, notice, learn of, find out about.

God should be the supreme treasure of our lives. God is infinitely magnificent, and there will always be new facets of His glory to discover and delight in.

We pray that everyone will embrace Jesus as Savior, Lord and Treasure, holding Him to be more valuable than all else.

Our church designs our Sunday Services to focus our attention on God as we corporately give praise to Him and continually discover more of His splendor, supremacy, and sufficiency.



Developing

joy in God

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..." (Colossians 3:16)

Develop: (v.) To grow, refine, transform, be affected by.

God changes our desires, fills us with hope, and increases our delight in Him as we study His Word and share life with other believers.

We challenge every believer to spend regular, consistent time studying God's Word in an effort to better know and treasure both God and His ways.

Neighborhood church also offers a variety of Small Group Bible Studies where we together read God's Word, pursue joy in God, and encourage each other in joyful obedience to Him.



Displaying

joy in God

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

Display: (v.) To show, reveal, exhibit, give evidence of.

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.



Declaring

joy in God

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

Declare: (v.) To announce, proclaim, make known.

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 participate in the Great Commission through praying, giving, and going.

At times Neighborhood Church organizes local outreach events. Our church also partners with international workers and organizations in their labor to see that the Church is established among all the world's people groups.