

Message-based Study

Connection

What is your favorite movie genre to watch?

- Do you have a favorite movie?

Content

"When Joy is Around, Hope Is Nearby"

What gives you joy?

Romans 12:12 tells us to "Rejoice in our confident hope." But we live in a culture of despair with faith left out. Scripture links hope with joy, and joy is a supernatural optimism. When joy is around, hope is nearby.

In the midst of despair, there is joy in waiting for God.

Read Psalm 40:1-4.

1. King David was in a "pit of despair." But he waited patiently for God's help. God lifted him out of the pit, steadied him and gave him a "new song." When have you been in a pit of despair in your life?

2. David's "new song" after God heard his cry for help was an expression of praise, encouragement and hope to others. If someone you know needs encouragement, how would you describe a time God came through for you?

There is joy in living for God.

3. Read Psalm 40:5-10.

God is awesome like nothing else in the universe. What does he want you to do once you understand that fact?

There is joy in calling on God.

4. Read Psalm 40:11-15. You may suffer guilt or feel you are a victim. Whatever you feel, God wants you to start by calling on him for rescue (vs. 13). He loves that we go to him. What are some feelings or circumstances that keep you from calling on God for help?

There is joy in relying on God.

5. Read Psalm 40:16-17. Being filled with joy and gladness is a result of searching for God. Those blessed by God's salvation shout, "The Lord is great!"

We don't always rely on God, but what are some good reasons that you should?

Commitment

Set yourself toward refocus and resolve

6. David says, "I am poor and needy" (vs. 17). That's a first step toward joy – admitting, "I am a mess." Have you ever admitted to God that you were a mess? If that was the first step, what was the next one?

7. How does each of these words relate to joy in God for you?

Wait

Live

Call

Rely



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **Begin with prayer** for a person in your life who needs Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S. them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?