

(re)Focused

Rejoice Together (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Relationships succeed when we rejoice in truth together.

Key Scriptures

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8 NIV

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

Key take always:

- Individual joy at other's expense is wrong and is no joy at all.
- True love rejoices in truth together.

Start talking.

- Pastor Joel made the statement: "We cannot be both loving and distracted." How is that true?
- What things fight for your "relational" focus?

Start thinking.

- Read 1 John 4:7-8. How does love come from God?
- Why is it impossible to know God without knowing love?
- John says, "God is love." Why is that important? How does the concept of the Trinity reflect this?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What is the key difference between "delight" and "rejoice"? Explain why that is important.
- When referring to delight and evil Pastor Joel said, "The two together are about living a lifestyle of self-gratification at the expense of another." What are some examples?
- How does the relationship in the Trinity reflect rejoicing in truth?

Start sharing.

- How have you settled for "delight" vs. "rejoicing"?
- What are "true" experiences that result in rejoicing?

Start doing.

- What "truth" (either objectively or subjectively) can you rejoice and celebrate with someone this week?

Closing prayer.

Jesu, thank you for knowing me and loving me. Please continue to pour your love into me that I might truly love others. Forgive me for the ways I have selfishly sought joy at the expense of others. In all my relationships give me the wisdom and passion to rejoice in truth.