

Joy Has Been Secured for You (8/11/24)

Main Verses: John 16:16-24

Key Verse: John 16:22

'Takeaway': Though the path on which we follow Christ does include sorrow, the momentary sorrow Jesus experienced on the cross has also secured an eternal joy for all who trust him.



Getting Started: What is something that gives you great joy? Why?

READ John 16:16-24 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What is Jesus talking to his disciples about?
- When they don't understand what he is saying, what do they do? What should they have done?
- What sorrow is Jesus specifically referring to in verse 22?
- Why will their hearts rejoice?

Elementary:

- What is Jesus talking to his disciples about?
- When they don't understand what he is saying, what do they do? What should they have done?
- What sorrow is Jesus specifically referring to in verse 22?
- Why will their hearts rejoice?
- Why can we rejoice when we have sorrows?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK

- Jesus is talking to the disciples about the sorrow they are going to feel when he is crucified & dies. That sorrow will turn to joy when he rises again on the third day.
- Instead of asking Jesus, the disciples talk among themselves. We can always talk to God about things that are confusing or cause us sorrow.
- We can rejoice even when we have sorrows because we know that Jesus has overcome the world. As long as we are in him, thru faith, we can rejoice.
- Because of Jesus, our joy is eternal thru faith in him.

Elementary:

- Jesus is talking to the disciples about the sorrow they are going to feel when he is crucified & dies. That sorrow will turn to joy when he rises again on the third day.
- Instead of asking Jesus what he meant, the disciples talked among themselves. We can always talk to God about things that are confusing or cause us sorrow.
- We can rejoice even when we have sorrows because we know that Jesus has overcome the world. As long as we are in him, thru faith, we can rejoice.
- Because of Jesus, our joy is eternal, thru faith in him.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him for his Son Jesus. Thank God that we can know a secure joy, one that can never be taken from us. Ask him to help you when you have sorrows to talk to him about those things, & experience the joy that Jesus died to give us. Thank God that Jesus has overcome the world so that, thru faith in him, we too can rejoice.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for his Son, Jesus. Thank him that we can know a secure joy, one that can never be taken from us. Thank God that when we have sorrows we can always talk to him about whatever is troubling us, confident in knowing that Jesus has overcome the world - which means that if we are in him, thru faith, we can rejoice & experience the eternal joy that Jesus died to give us. Have you felt God calling you to surrender to his loving leadership so that you too can experience this joy? If so, you might want to pray in this way: **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, forever with God. With your whole heart & being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.