

Joy in God's Presence

Scripture:

Psalm 84 - Also: Psalm 16:11; 139:1-24

Discussion Questions

What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scripture passages?

1. Where (in what situations in life) are you most naturally aware of God's presence? Why?
2. Where (in what situations in life) are you most naturally unaware of God's presence? Why?
3. This statement was made in the sermon:
 - o "JOY is the convergence of God's presence and our awareness of God's presence."
 - o Where have you seen that in your life? In others' lives?
4. In the sermon, there were a number of specific situations pointed to in Scripture that can connect us to an awareness of God's presence:
 - o His good gifts (James 1:17)
 - o Broken hearts (Psalm 34:18)
 - o The gathering of His people (Matthew 18:20)
 - o When the Holy Spirit is working in you somehow (John 14:16)
 - o While you're on mission (Matthew 28:20)
 - o When you see or experience reconciliation (Zephaniah 3:17)
 - o When we pray (1 John 5:14)
 - o When we confess our sins (1 John 1:9)
 - o When you are tired (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - o **What is your reaction to those things?**
 - o **What other Scriptures come to mind?**
5. How do you see our world (including those outside faith in Jesus) struggle with the reality of God's presence?
6. How can you help them?

What will you do this week to cultivate an awareness of God's presence with you?