



**Group Time**

◀◀ LOOK BACK:

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 46 for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
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3. Review last week's lesson.

Reread Matthew 22:37. Did you do anything different this past week? Share it with the group.

LOOK UP:

**Question:** Would you agree with this statement and why?

Fans are happy when their team wins. Players have joy when their team wins.

1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** We live in a relatively joyless world. Everywhere we look we can find despair, disappointment, dissatisfaction, and discouragement. We need joy, and a joyful Christian is a good representative of the Good News, the gospel to a joyless world.  
 The Apostle Paul often wrote of joy in some of the most difficult and depressing circumstances. Whether stoning, shipwreck, or prison cell, he found joy in all as long as he was able to proclaim Christ.  
 The Philippians held a special place in Paul's heart. It was the first city he encountered after being called to Macedonia. They were a city that had no Jewish core, yet many accepted the gospel wholeheartedly and gave ongoing support to his ministry, even while Paul was in prison. And that's where he is as he writes this letter to them.

3. Discussion:

- Give an example of this statement in your own life:  
*Happiness is a feeling; joy is a lens through which we view the world.*
- The point was made during the sermon that, "You won't experience joy until you encounter Jesus."  
 What is this joy based upon? (Reference Luke 2:10 & John 15:5)
- Another point that was made was, "Joy is derived from devotion."  
 Looking back at our opening question, how is being a servant to Christ like being a player and not just a fan?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

**Point:** *Joy is not a feeling; it is a lens through which we view the world. It's a lens we are given through faith in Jesus.*

- Read Acts 2:42-47 – about the first church in Jerusalem.
  - In verse 46b, what was the condition of their hearts?  
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  - In verse 47a, how did the outside world view them?  
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  - In verse 47b, what was the result?  
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 (Who was adding to those who were being saved?)
- What is, or should, our group be doing to "find favor" with others and how can we ensure an attitude of joy while doing it?  
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