

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Fruit of the Spirit – Joy
Galatians 5:22-23

1. What are some moments or events in your life that have brought you special joy? (You might think about things specifically related to your walk as a Christian, but don't restrict yourself to these.)
What was it about them that provoked such joy?
How do you typically express joy and to what extent do you think this is a reflection of your personality and/or culture?

2. **Psalms.** Read as many of the following passages as you have time for, looking also at the context of the passage within the psalm.
In each one, what is it that has stirred the psalmist to joy and how does he express his joy?
Can you share in this joy?
 - Psalm 5:11
 - Psalm 16:11
 - Psalm 20:5
 - Psalm 21:6
 - Psalm 51:8, 12
 - Psalm 66:1
 - Psalm 67:4
 - Psalm 95:1-2
 - Psalm 98:1-9

3. Read **Philippians 3:1 & 4:4**. What do you think it means to "Rejoice in the Lord"?
Is this a different kind of joy? What does it really look like?
Paul says "always" – seriously?

4. Turn to **Isaiah 35** (if you have time, read the whole chapter and see also Isaiah 51:3 & 11).
What will bring such joy to the people? (verses 4, 10)
This is poetry; how does all the imagery here stir joy in you as you reflect on God's salvation?

5. Read **Luke 15**. What is the common theme across the three stories?
What do the father's responses and actions (verses 20, 22-23) tell us about God?
Do we share in this joy in heaven over one sinner who repents? How might we express such joy?
How does this motivate us in the work of spreading the gospel?

6. Read **Philippians 1:3-11**. What was it about Paul's Christian friends at Philippi that caused him to pray "with joy"? (verse 4) See also Philippians 2:1-2, 4:1 and 4:10-20.
Do your Christian friends bring you joy? Why / why not?
Do you think that you bring joy to your Christian friends? Why / why not?

7. What about when we just don't feel joyful? What might be some causes of joylessness for a Christian (or anyone else)? What should we do when feeling joyless? How can we help and support a Christian friend going through difficult times?