



REIMAGINE

WEEK 7 - REJOICE! OVERVIEW

This series began with a recognition that Paul's letter to the Philippian Church is one of his most joyful and encouraging in the New Testament. Nowhere is this more apparent than in his famous command, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (4:4 NRSV). As we've seen, Paul had a lot to be joyful for in the lives of his brothers and sisters in Philippi: a church that took root deeply in the love of Jesus, a community overflowing with generosity, and a family that stayed true to Paul when others fell away. Paul's joy is well founded, and he wants the Philippians to carry that joy forward forever.

Today, as we celebrate what God is doing at Grace through the Reimagine Initiative, let us not only dream about what is to come, but rejoice with thanksgiving at what he has done through those who have come before. Like the Church in Philippi, let us build on the gifts of our forebears and "keep putting into practice all we learned and received from them" (4:9), even as we grow, dream, and adapt to the new realities God has called us into.

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it difficult to be joyful? Why or why not?
2. Read [Philippians 4:4-9](#). Barry said the end of verse 5 literally says "*the Lord is near*". Read [Psalm 145:18](#), [Psalm 64:10](#), and [Psalm 34:18](#).
 - a. What is the difference between happiness and biblical joy?
3. Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#).
 - a. How would you compare Roman peace (*Pax Romana*) to biblical peace (*shalom*)?
 - b. How is joy an emotion that flows out of peace?
 - c. Why do you think Paul keeps telling the Philippians to be joyful and rejoice? (see also [Philippians 1:18](#), [2:17-18](#), [3:1](#), [4:4](#))
4. What would happen if you were always full of joy in the Lord?
5. As we come to the end of the Reimagine series, what will you remember?
6. What is the next step for you and your "one"?