



# Sermon Growth Guide

**November 22, 2020**

**Give Thanks – With Joy**

**Philippians 4:4-13**

**Key Verse:** Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

**Big Idea:** Rejoice in the Lord always!

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## Foundations

In our fourth and final week in the book of Philippians, we learn to give thanks with joy in every season of life. Recall that the main crux of this series has been this: God’s gifts are grounds for gratitude. Philippians teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances and to find our joy in the Lord.

“It’s something to realize that ‘rejoice’ is not a suggestion,” writes Pastor Tim, “but a command.” The people of God are called, commanded, to rejoice. Rejoice in the now of your life. Rejoice on the mountain top. Rejoice in the valley. Rejoice in an afternoon nap with the sun warming your skin as well as in the moments of your life when it feels as though your very life has been taken from you. Rejoice always. How?

One of our values is “Live for God—worship trains our hearts to beat for God.” Sunday worship is a training ground for our souls. There is simply no way to “rejoice always” outside of a faithful commitment to God and His people where we are built up together by the Lord, empowered by the Spirit to begin to rejoice in all circumstances.

Gathered together with your circle, in-person or online, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your thinking and growing.

## Understanding God’s Word

Take time combing through verses 4–9. Name the imperatives that Paul issues to God’s people. What stands out to you as most important here?

Looking at verse 8, identify examples of things that are “true,” “noble,” “admirable,” “excellent,” and “praiseworthy.” Host a conversation on how natural it is for conversations you find yourself in to stay within these Kingdom parameters.

Often misunderstood and misapplied, within its context verse 13 is clearly strengthening Paul’s argument in verses 10–12. Looking especially at verses 11 and 12, what is the believer able to do in verse 13 by God’s strength?

## Applying God’s Word

How can you “put into practice” (Philippians 4:9) the command to rejoice always? How can your Life Group help you to this end?

## Witnessing God’s Word

As you build your “rejoice always” muscles, think of one person or one group of people that you interact with that are not yet desiring to follow the Lord in all things. Pray that the Spirit gives you His strength to visibly “rejoice always” so that the watching world will have the opportunity to see Jesus through the way you respond in all circumstances.