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**"Joy is the infallible proof of the presence of God."**  
[Madeleine L'engle]

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

How have you experienced the "joy of the Lord" in the past week?

## **\*OPTIONAL\*** DEVOTIONAL RECAP

What is one thing that God taught you, convicted you of, or invited you to begin doing as you read the devotional last week?

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones;  
shout for joy, all you upright in heart."  
[Psalm 32:11]*

## BIG IDEA

Uncertainty can talk us into pursuing a back-up plan instead of our purpose as God's people — to share the joy we have in the Lord!

## PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

**Luke 24:36-53**

1. In the sermon we heard, *"Uncertainty (i.e. fear, anxiety) can make God seem like a stranger."* How have you found this to be true in your life recently?
2. How did the resurrection change the disciples' fear and uncertainty into purpose and joy?
3. How can the resurrection give you clarity and purpose in the midst of your own fear and uncertainty?
4. What role did the promise of the Holy Spirit play in the disciples' ability to fulfill their mission? What role should He play in our mission?
5. What does it mean to be a "witness" of the resurrection? How are you doing at living that out?
6. Our purpose is to "share the joy we have in the Lord." How can joy be an effective tool for evangelism?
7. How does the idea that "purpose conquers uncertainty" resonate with your own experiences of doubt or confusion?

8. What practical steps can you take to live as a witness of Christ in your current circumstances?
9. How does the disciples' transformation from fear to joy challenge how you view your own fears about sharing the gospel?
10. What does it look like to live in the "marvelous light" of Christ? How can this reality impact your daily life and interactions with others?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Despite our own fears and uncertainty, God's empowering presence is enough for us to fulfill our purpose —> *showing and sharing God's Kingdom and the joy of being part of it (GOING)!* Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take in this area of your life?

Here are a few additional questions to help you discern how to show the availability of His Kingdom to those around you ...

- How can you embrace your **ROLE** of witness more fully? Witnesses in God's Kingdom are:
  - sent from love!
  - for love!
  - with joy!
- Do you recognize when your "witnessing" is not **TO** Christ? Remember, witnessing is NOT:
  - technique to use on a target!
  - knowledge as a weapon!
  - winning the argument!
  - disdain toward non-believers!
- How can you **GIVE** God and others your:
  - personality?
  - proximity?
  - presence?
  - prayers?

## PRAYER FOCUS

### Witnesses of His Joy

- Lord, we know that uncertainty can often lead us to doubt and make us hesitant to fully trust in you. It's easy to stray from our calling because we fear the unknown. However, you remind us that our purpose is not found in worldly security, but in the joy we have in you.
- Let's pray that in uncertainty, we would not be distracted or dissuaded from sharing the joy of the Lord. We ask for the courage to pursue your plan wholeheartedly, trust you more deeply, and know that your plans are greater than any we could devise for ourselves.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.*

(Matthew 7:24-25)

## RLC RESOURCES

- **Rock Bridge WEBSITE**
  - This contains an overview video and links to a 40 day Bible reading plan, which complement and enhance the Red Letter Challenge series.
- **Red Letter Disciple PODCAST**
  - This podcast does NOT go along with the series, but is about discipleship and will equip and encourage you. This would be best for people to listen to on their own.
- **Red Letter Commitment Card**
  - During the final week of the Red letter Challenge (October 20), we will invite YOU to commit to taking a next step in one (or more) of the areas we focused on. We hope you'll begin praying NOW about what step God is inviting you to take!