

THE  
joy  
OF  
MISSING  
OUT

THE SECRET OF JOY

#JOMOSeries • Part 2 • May 12-13, 2018 • Group Study Guide

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*No discipline brings joy at the time, but feels painful. But later on, those who have learned from that discipline have joy that comes from a harvest of righteousness and peace. (Hebrews 12:11)*

This week, we learned about a godly woman named Hannah who desperately wanted to have a child but God had kept her from having children. When we don't understand why our prayers haven't been answered, we end up frustrated, fighting against everything that we don't like. But just because life is uncomfortable doesn't mean it's not where we're supposed to be. Just because we experience disappointment or heartache, it doesn't mean that God doesn't love us. Hannah didn't understand at the time, but God was preparing a great blessing for her and for the nation of Israel. Hannah, in deep sorrow, poured out her heart to God, ultimately recognizing that God has a plan for that was greater than hers. In effect, she prayed, "Lord, not what I want but what you want," "Lord, no matter what, I will trust you," and "Lord, in all things, I will praise You." When she chose to trust God, heart was filled with joy, and that joy became her strength. In due time, God gave Hannah the desire of her heart, the son she always wanted. Hannah, true to her word, gave Samuel back to God to belong to Him and serve him for his whole life. She was full of joy and God continued to bless her in ways that defied any human explanation. To experience joy like Hannah, 1) Put God first in everything. The only time in the Bible God tells us to test Him is in the area of money. Money is God's main competition for our hearts. When we bring the first 10% of our income to God, the priorities of our heart are put to the test. 2) Don't fight God, instead, try it His way. When we release the control of our life to God we are giving him the opportunity to prove His care for us. It comes down to one word: Trust! Do I really trust God with my life?

### Talk About It

1. Read 1 Samuel 1. Have you ever had to pray a desperate prayer like Hannah? How does this story encourage you?
2. Talk about the real struggle of wanting God to do something for you, and then coming to the place where you prayed, "Lord, not what I want, but what you want?" How did your heart get to that place of trust?
3. Pastor Darryn shared an example of two Christ-followers who love God equally, but only one of them trusts God with tithing. Both think the other is crazy for different reasons. Which person do you relate to? Who do you want to be?
4. Read and discuss Hannah's outcome. *"The LORD remembered her plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the LORD for him." Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there. Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the LORD! The LORD has made me strong. No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Those who were starving are now full. The childless woman now has seven children. He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor. For all the earth is the LORD's, and he has set the world in order. The LORD blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.* (1 Samuel 1:19–20, 24–28, 2:1-9, 21)

### Think About It

*Joy is trusting that God is in control of my life, believing that ultimately everything will be all right, and choosing to praise God in all things.*

### Pray About It

Turn the thought above into a prayer, trusting God will with your whole heart.

### Act On It

*"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse... If you do," says the Lord, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test. (Malachi 3:10)* If you're not putting God first in your life by tithing, why not try God's way for 90 days and see what God does?



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