



Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.
(John 21:25)

This verse is how John concludes his Gospel - his final reflection after recounting just a glimpse of Jesus' life and ministry. His writings cover only the things Jesus did as He walked on earth, during His three years of active ministry, in the areas He was able to reach by foot.

Even that limited window into God's goodness was too vast to be fully recorded.

Now imagine trying to write down all that God has done in the world since the beginning of creation. We would need galaxies to store the stories. Libraries upon libraries would capture words whispered to discouraged hearts in the dark of night. Enormous books would capture the hope-filled promises He's uttered and then fulfilled - children to the barren, healing to the dying, rescue to those trapped in slavery, restoration to relationships on the brink of ending.

We truly have so much to rejoice in!

In heaven we will spend eternity rejoicing in who He is and what He's done. But we don't have to wait. As we've explored this year, there is power in rejoicing. It deepens our intimacy with God. It strengthens us to endure. It lifts the weight of anxiety and discouragement. And most importantly, it honors the heart of our Father.

An earthly father doesn't need his child's praise. A good father will care for his baby, meeting constant demands, even if a 'thank you' is never uttered. But how joyous he is when the child first tries out the words, 'I love you' or gives an unprompted hug.

It's the same with our Heavenly Father. He delights when we respond with worship. Jesus healed all ten lepers, but He honored the leper who returned to give thanks (Luke 17:11-19).

Rejoicing is truly a beautiful gift that produces great fruit in our lives. Sometimes it's a quiet thank-you whispered through tears. But it's always powerful. It roots us in truth. It pulls our eyes up from our circumstances and places them firmly on Jesus.

And when we look at Him, it's not hard to find reasons to rejoice.

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, "The Lord is great!" (Psalm 70:4)



Reflection

DECEMBER

Not Enough Pages

1. What ideas have stood out to you most as you have gone through this year of devotions?

2. The verse we started this year with was, "Rejoice in the Lord **always**, I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

What has it been like to take time to rejoice in God this year?

Share a moment when you rejoiced in God and what the experience was like for you.

3. What an amazing year it's been exploring "Rejoicing" together! Here is what we've covered:

- **God's Goodness** - True worship is our hearts exploding in response to God's magnificence! When we seek Him, we always discover more of His wonder.
- **God's Blessing** - God is incredibly active in our lives and the world! We can always find reasons to rejoice.
- **God's Salvation** - The God who created everything, placed Himself into a body, suffered painfully, and died a criminal's death so that we could be saved for eternity. Look no further for a reason to fall on your face in gratitude and rejoicing!
- **RW Values** - For the week of prayer, we looked at our values through the lens of rejoicing; they are not just standards we are trying to live up to. We can rejoice in them - that we have a good Shepherd and a trustworthy God, that we have gifts to steward, a community around us and that God speaks to us!
- **Barriers to Rejoicing** - When our bodies, minds, and souls are tired, it is harder to rejoice. We explored the importance of caring for ourselves through growing in community, getting physical rest, and experiencing God's peace.
- **Benefits of Rejoicing** - Although we could have spent another year on this topic, we highlighted two benefits of rejoicing in God - greater intimacy with Him and motivation to work hard.

Which of these topics stands out to you the most and why?

4. What is one practice you want to take with you from this year of rejoicing? Maybe it is something you have started doing this year, or maybe it is something you would like to start doing to rejoice in God more regularly or wholeheartedly.

5. Let's have a final time of rejoicing together this year. Take time to share stories of victory that you would like to rejoice in. And then let's all pray together, rejoicing in God for who He is and what He's done in our lives.