

Never, Never, Never Give Up

Celebrating

For every Tigger, there seems to be a dozen Eeyores. For every optimist, there are three realists and nine pessimists. If you want to have a good time, there are always some people who will try pour cold water over it all. There's so much bad news that we hardly know what to do when good news sneaks up on us. Ever wonder why that is? This week's Conversation takes a stroll through the valley of the shadow of death to see if there's anything worth celebrating.

John 12:9–19

1. _____ is part of the promise of a _____ and _____
_____. (See John 15:11)
2. _____ are bent on _____ your joy.
3. Protect your joy by:

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll share my joy with others
- I'll protect my heart from Joy-Killers
- I'll celebrate Holy Week fully and joyfully

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: John 1

1. What are the requirements for becoming “a child of God”?
2. How did Andrew celebrate his discovery of Jesus as the Messiah?

Reflect: Why do you think Jesus invited John’s followers to “come and see” rather than “come and believe”?

Tuesday

Read: John 2

1. Why were the guests so amazed that the better wine was served late in the celebrations?
2. What made Jesus so angry at the activities in the Temple courts (the outer courts where non-Jews were allowed to enter and worship)?

Reflect: What do you think is the significance that the first miracle recorded in John revolved around a celebration?

Wednesday

Read: John 3

1. Why do you think Nicodemus was confused by Jesus’ metaphor of being born again?
2. Why were John’s disciples upset with Jesus?

Reflect: How does John celebrate Jesus’ success as Jesus began his ministry?

Thursday

Read: John 4

1. How did the woman celebrate Jesus’ words to her?
2. How did the Royal Official (and his household) celebrate Jesus’ act of healing?

Reflect: How are these responses of celebration different that the way most of us understand “celebrating”?

Friday

Read: John 5

1. How receptive does the man needing to be healed appear to be when Jesus asks him if he wanted to get well?
2. How did the healed man respond to Jesus’ act of healing?

Reflect: Why do you think some people don’t really seem to want to get well?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*