

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## EPISODE 3 – JOY IN GOD WHEN IT'S HARD

### JOY IN GOD SERIES (BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL)

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- Having joy in God means that you praise Him with your whole heart, even when it's hard.
- **Romans 15:13**; *“May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.”*
- Having joy is trusting that God is in control and He will use the experiences in your life, both good and bad, to make His will known. Having joy for God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.
- This lesson focuses on having joy in God even when it's hard to do. This lesson comes from the book of **1 Samuel**.
- There was a shepherd boy and musician named David who lived in Bethlehem. While the Israelites were fighting the Philistines, David persuaded Saul, the king of Israel, to let him challenge the mighty Philistine warrior Goliath. God was with David, and he defeated Goliath using only a slingshot and a single stone.
- After killing Goliath, David became very popular. He started working for King Saul. Saul grew very jealous of David, and he wanted to kill him. He was filled with an evil spirit and tried to kill David with a spear while David was playing the harp for him. But David escaped.



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- Later Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his attendants to kill David. Even though Jonathan was the king's son, he was a good friend to David. He warned him of his father's plot to kill him.
- Jonathan then spoke to his father, pleading for him not to kill David. Saul listened to him and allowed David to continue working for him. But again, Saul was filled with an evil spirit and tried to kill David again with his spear. Once more David escaped.
- Saul sent some men to David's house to kill him. But David's wife Michal warned him in time. David escaped and went to stay with Samuel, who was a prophet. Saul continued to come after David. But God allowed David to escape from Saul and his men.
- David again went to his friend Jonathan for help. He and Jonathan came up with a plan to find out if King Saul wanted to kill David. When it became clear that the king still wanted to kill David, Jonathan helped him escape.
- David continued to run from Saul, hiding in caves and traveling to far-away lands. All this time Saul continued to pursue David, trying to kill him.
- It must have been very hard for David to find joy in God while always on the run. But David loved God and trusted in His will. He wrote a number of songs during these hard times, which are now included in the book of **Psalms**.
- Here are some Psalms David wrote during his time running from King Saul;
- **Psalm 31:21-24**; *"Give praise to the LORD. He showed me His wonderful love when my enemies attacked the city I was in. I was afraid and said, 'I've been cut off from you!' But you heard my cry for your favor. You heard me when I called out to you for help. Love the LORD, all you who are faithful to Him! The LORD keeps safe those who are faithful to Him. But He completely pays back those who are proud. Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up."*

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- **PSALM 142:5-7**; *“LORD, I cry out to you. I say, ‘You are my place of safety. You are everything I need in this life.’ Listen to my cry. I am in great need. Save me from those who are chasing me. They are too strong for me. My troubles are like a prison. Set me free so I can praise Your Name. Then those who do what is right will gather around me because you have been good to me.”*
- David is known as being a man after God’s own heart. **Acts 13:22**; **“God removed him (Saul) and made David their king. Here is God’s witness about him. ‘David, son of Jesse, is a man dear to my heart,’ He said. ‘David will do everything I want him to do.’**
- Even though David went through some real struggles for many years, he trusted God. God grew David in wisdom and strength during his struggles, and those experiences helped him to become the most influential king of Israel.
- Later when David was king God made a covenant, or a holy promise, with him. God told the prophet Nathan to tell King David that God would bring from his family line a king whose throne would last forever. God would be His father, and He would be His son. David’s name would live on through this king.
- God was promising to send the KING of Kings, His Son Jesus Christ, who would come many years later from the family line of David!
- David may not have understood at first why God had allowed him to struggle, but God had a plan for David. He grew him in wisdom and leadership through those hard times, so that one day he would become a great king. Then through David’s family line, God brought forth His precious Son, Jesus Christ!
- Like David, we face hard times in our lives. Some struggles are big, and some are small. But no matter what we go through, we can have joy knowing that God will never leave us, just like He never left David.

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- God loves His children and wants us to trust in His ways, even when we don't understand His plans. And we can have abundant joy knowing that God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins! As children of God, we will have eternal life with Him.
- Whenever you feel overwhelmed by struggles, take on the heart of David and trust in God's will. Remember that He is with you always, no matter what!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### 1. Who gives you joy for God?

- Having joy in God comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. We praise God with our whole hearts, even when it's hard.

### 2. Who was David?

- David was a shepherd boy and musician from Bethlehem. While the Israelites were fighting the Philistines, David persuaded Saul, the king of Israel, to let him challenge the mighty Philistine warrior Goliath. God was with David, and he defeated Goliath using only a slingshot and a single stone.

### 3. Did King Saul like David? Why or why not?

- No, King Saul did not like David at all! After killing Goliath, David became very popular. Saul grew very jealous of David, and he wanted to kill him. He was filled with an evil spirit and tried to kill David with a spear while David was playing the harp for him. But David escaped.

### 4. What did King Saul's son Jonathan do for David?

- Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his attendants to kill David. Even though Jonathan was the king's son, he was a good friend to David. He warned him of his father's plot to kill him. Jonathan then spoke to his father, pleading for him not to kill David. Saul listened to him and allowed David to continue working for him. But again, Saul was filled with an evil spirit and tried to kill David again with his spear. Once more David escaped.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 5. Did David have joy in God, even during his struggles?

- Yes, he did! David trusted in God's will, and even wrote songs praising God during his years of running from Saul.

### 6. Later when David was king, what did God promise to do?

- God made a covenant, or a holy promise, with King David. He said that He would bring from David's family line a king whose throne would last forever. God would be His father, and He would be His son. David's name would live on through this king. God was promising to send the King of Kings, His Son Jesus Christ, many years later from the family line of David.

## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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### 1. How can you have joy in God, even when it's hard?

- Take on the heart of David, and trust in God's plans for your life. Read God's Word and learn about the promises He has made. Rejoice knowing that He loves you and will never leave you. Surround yourself with other believers in Christian community and share your joy for God.

### 2. What are some ways you can share your joy in God with others?

- Invite them to church or Friendship group. Introduce them to other believers in your Christian community. Tell them how much you love God, and the ways He has grown you during tough times.