**Elect Joy (Graphic)**

Week 1: Joy Always

Happiness is **external** Happiness is by **chance**

Joy is **internal** Joy is by **choice**

When **JESUS** is your **JOY**, you can’t lose!

**Joy Beyond Yourself**

(Philippians 2:1)

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, in any tenderness and compassion,”

(Philippians 2:2)

“then make my **joy complete** by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

1. Joy is **complete** in **community**.

(1 John 4:11-12)

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

 **Healthy community** requires **humility and unity.**

(Philippians 2:3-4)

“**Do nothing out of selfish ambition** or vain conceit. Rather, in **humility value others above yourselves**, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of the others.”

1. Community adopts an **“others first”** mentality.

(1 John 3:16-17)

“**This is how we know what love is:** Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

1. **Embody** Christ’s **example**.

(Philippians 2:5-8)

“**In your relationships with one another**, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

 Jesus was **better than us**. Yet, treated us **better than him**.

 If you want to have **joy beyond yourself**, you have to **get over yourself**.

(Philippians 2:12)

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,”

1. It takes **work**.

A **self-centered** life only **magnifies misery**.

An **others-centered** life will **generate joy**.