

Week of July 14, 2019

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Joy is delighting in the great grace that our great God gives us in Jesus Christ despite our despair.

This Week's Text: Isaiah 12

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has this passage realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- What do verses 1 and 2 reveal about us (the human condition) and about the nature of God? Do you tend toward either diminishing the grace of God ("my sin is too great for God to forgive") or to diminish the severity of your sin ("there are worse sinners than me")?
- What are some ways we try to soothe ourselves from the undercurrent of sadness due to our sin? What is the difference between the joy of salvation and the temporal happiness? Discuss how the pathway to genuine, lasting joy is the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
- What are some practical ways we can "draw water from the wells of salvation" (music, gospelcentered community, regularly reading the Word of God, etc.)?
- What is Isaiah referring to by the phrase "in that day" (verses 1 and 4)?
- What is the natural response of those who regularly rehearse the gospel (verses 5-6)? Do you need to return to Jesus as the source of your joy? Does your delight in Jesus propel you to lovingly demonstrate and declare the gospel to those you know?