



# re•mark•able

IDENTIFIED AS EXTRAORDINARY

## WORSHIP RESOURCE | WEEK 2

**Theme** | A Methodist Rejoices in God

**Overall Series Scripture** | Luke 5:26, New Revised Standard Version

**Scripture** | Nehemiah 8:9-12, The Voice

**Call to Worship** | Psalm 98:4, The Message

**Sermon Title** | Remarkable | A Methodist Rejoices in God

**Desired Outcome** | Congregants will recognize the connection between deep happiness and discipleship and will experience and express joy

### Sermon Building Key Points

- What's the most fun you've experienced through a church-related event or activity?
- Yiddish Proverb | "What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul."
- St. Augustine said God teaches us to praise through the Psalms not for what God gets out of it, but because we come to know and love God better
- How much do we associate church with fun, celebration and joy?
- John Wesley said, "A Methodist rejoices in God."
- Wesley's translation of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 uses the word "happy" instead of "blessed"
- For this sermon, the terms deep happiness and joy are used interchangeably
- Deep happiness or joy is not: dependent on circumstances or what happens in your life, just putting on a happy face, dependent on getting our way, an emoji
- What Hannah Whitall Smith describes in *The Christians Secret of a Happy Life* isn't superficial
- Joy is the comprehensive response we make with our whole beings to God's love
- Joy is a mark of discipleship that gives us confidence and courage
- The basis for our joy is the assurance that when we repent of our sins we are forgiven
- Steve Harper "Just as fingerprints make us unique and unrepeatable sons and daughters of God, we are given a distinctive soul print. Not just the life of God in the human soul. The life of God in your soul."
- Anxiety, fear, and focusing on past mistakes can block joy
- Joy does not deny grief
- Richard Foster "Reaching for everlasting joy through singing, dancing and praising is essential even and perhaps especially in times of sadness because it returns our focus to God."

[ Continued on Page 2 ]



# re•mark•able

IDENTIFIED AS EXTRAORDINARY

[ Continued from Page 1 ]

## WORSHIP RESOURCE | WEEK 2

### Sermon Building Key Points [ Continued ]

- We can express joy through worship, prayer, and our interactions with others
- Joy is our response to God's grace and is evidence we are living as followers of Christ
- Call to Action: find a way to share joy with someone this week

### Prayer for the Week

Dear God, thank you for the assurance of your grace. Amen.

### Daily Readings for Week 2

MON • Matthew 26:30

TUE • Matthew 5:1-12

WED • 1 John 4:16-18

THU • Romans 5:8

FRI • Isaiah 40:26-31

SAT • Psalm 98

### Music Recommendations

#### Contemporary

- Show Me Your Glory I by Third Day
- Amazed I by Kutless
- How Great is Our God I by Chris Tomlin
- Trust I by Kristene Mueller
- Grace Like Rain I by Todd Agnew

#### Blended

- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee I UMH 89
- When Morning Gilds the Skies I UMH 185
- Let All the World in Every Corner Sing I UMH 93
- Christ the Lord is Risen Today I UMH 302
- Come, We That Love the Lord I UMH 732

### Suggested Video

- We Are Free I by Journey Box Media