

## **February 11, 2024 - Influence: The Influence of Joy**

Feel free to **PICK AND CHOOSE** some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Before you leave, be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

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### **Connect:**

Which people, places, or organizations do you feel have the greatest amount of joy today?

What's your current relationship with joy?

Would other people consider you joyful? Why or why not?

Who are some of the people that make you laugh the most?

### **Engage:**

How often do you think about the life of Jesus as a life of joy?

What do we lose by wrongly seeing Jesus as a joyless being?

What do we gain by seeing His life as a life marked by joy?

### **1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 & 3:6-9**

What are some of the things you do and invest in that bring you a deep sense of joy?

These passages outline the tension we often feel between joy and hardship.

What's it been like for you living in the tension of experiences of joy and experiences of hardship?

Do those usually happen separately in two distinct seasons or are they more frequently intertwined?

Do you feel like you more often experience joy or more often experience hardship?

### **Proverbs 17:22**

When is a time that you've seen this be true?

When has laughter lifted you or someone else up at just the right time?

### **Read Proverbs 31:25**

How do "strength and honor" equip you to face the future in a joyful way?

How equipped do you feel to face the specific challenges of your future?

How can a perspective of joy equip you to face these challenges?

### **Apply:**

What would it look like for the world's churches to be places defined by joy?

What would an increased dose of joy change about the way the world views the Church?

### **Read 12:2**

What would it look like for you to live a life that's more marked by joy?

What is stealing your joy that you might need to give up?

What is giving you joy that you might need to double down on?

### **Top 3:**

#### **Membership Class | Wednesday, February 21 at 6pm**

Membership is a way for our church leadership and church members to make promises to one another as we seek God's best for Fondren Church together. The first step in becoming a member is to attend a membership class. In the class, you'll learn more about the history of our church, our leadership structures, and the ways we promise to care for you as a church member. To learn more and register, visit [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).

#### **Serve Day | Saturday, February 24**

Serve Day is a day when people from Fondren Church serve alongside ministries all over the Jackson-Metro. We have ways for people of all ages and abilities to make a difference together. Registration opens soon. For more information and to register, visit [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).

#### **Marriage Workshops (Includes dinner and childcare for adults and children)**

##### **How to Childproof Your Marriage | Wednesday, February 28 at 5:30 pm**

##### **Date Night | Sunday, March 3 at 5:30 pm**

##### **No Kids, No Problems? | Sunday, March 3 at 5:30pm**

In "How to Child Proof Your Marriage", Laura McAlpin and Raymond Kennedy, a Fondren Church member and professional counselor, will lead us through a night to strengthen marriages in every stage of parenting. Couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage even in the midst of demanding seasons. Whether you're expecting your first child, in the "middle miles" and actively parenting kids and teens, or are navigating an empty nest, this will be a valuable investment of time in your marriage.

In "No Kids, No Problems?" Laura McAlpin will lead us through a night to build and strengthen marriages in the early years. Specifically designed for engaged, nearly married, newly married, and couples without the stressors that children add to the marital relationship, couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage, and build healthy habits and strong foundations in their relationship.

Register for either Workshop at [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).