

# GodSense

## *Lesson 9* *(Principles 46-49)*

### TEACHER NOTES

I. Review Lesson 8 assignment

II. Introduction/Review

If God says it, I will do it.

Getting to the real truth about myself and about what God says will free me to be fully me.

I will turn toward God in total, undivided commitment.

Even when I can't understand the difficulties in my life, I will trust God because I know that he is trustworthy.

I want to live every moment to its fullest, letting God live and work through me *now*.

Just as I accepted God's gift of salvation by faith, I must walk the same way. Not works, just faith.

I accept God's invitation to know Him better and to love Him more.

I worship God in reverence and joy.

*"God is the happiest being in the universe." John Ortberg.*

*God's intent was that his creation would mirror His joy.*

*"To miss out on joy is to miss out on the reason for your existence." Lewis Smedes*

*God is a God of the senses, a God of relationships, a God of peace and forgiveness. All of these characteristics, rightly understood and accessed work together to bring us joy. Not passing, temporary joy, but joy that is true, honest, eternal. God desires nothing less for us than ultimate joy.*

III. God wants us to be happy

A. Angels announced joy at Jesus' birth.

This study is based upon the book entitled *The GodSense Devotional* by Beverly Van Kampen. If you have any questions about this material or if you would like to know more about *GodSense*, please visit the author's website at [www.beverlyvankampen.com](http://www.beverlyvankampen.com).

Luke 2:9-10      *Good news of great joy. Messiah/fulfillment.*

B. Jesus promises his followers joy.

i.      John 15:10-11 *Joy in obedience; joy in the middle of persecution (see verses 18-25) Message: That your joy may be fully mature. How is mature joy different than immature joy?*

ii.     John 16:20              *Joy out of grief (as in childbirth)*

iii.    John 16:22              *Joy that cannot be taken away*

iv.     John 16:24              *Joy in answered prayer*

C. Jesus prayed for our joy.

John 17:13      *Praying before His death, so even without His physical presence, the disciples can experience full joy.*

IV. Joy is not circumstantial.

i. James 1:2-4    *Joy because our suffering leads to maturity, completeness*

ii. II Corinthians 7:4; 11:24-28    *Paul's sufferings; Paul's joy*

iii. Romans 5:3-5    *Give praise even when surrounded by troubles; alert expectancy (The Message)*

V. God's people have reasons to be joy-filled.

A. Forgiveness

i.      I Peter 1:8      *Inexpressible and glorious joy; salvation*

ii.     Psalm 51:12    *Restore joy of salvation*

B. Peace

i.      John 16:33    *Supernatural peace in the middle of troubles*

ii.     John 14:27    *Peace in the middle of fear*

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C. Service

- i. Ephesians 6:7-8 *Serve wholeheartedly as if to God*
- ii. Philippians 2:17-18 *Service brings rejoicing*

D. Intellect

- i. Colossians 3:2 *Put your mind on things above;*
- ii. Daniel 5:12 *A keen mind, with knowledge/understanding*

e. Humility

James 4:9-10 *Joy comes in self-forgetfulness; become as little children; simplicity.*

VI. Living expectantly brings joy. *Prayers, God's goodness toward us, heaven*

- A. I Corinthians 1:9 *Cannot imagine what God has prepared for us.*
- B. Isaiah 62:5 *God will rejoice over me*
- C. Jude 24 *Our presence in heaven will bring joy to God*

VII. Life can be happy!

- A. Be with joyful people.
- B. Find reasons to celebrate.
- C. Cultivate a thankful heart.
- D. Practice delight.

# ASSIGNMENT

## Lesson 9

### Bible study

In Jesus' teachings to His disciples just before His death, he told them several times that He wanted them to experience mature joy. Read carefully John 14, 15, and 16 and list the following:

Commands/Instructions that Jesus gives:

*CATEGORIES: Trust, obey, abide, love, testify.*

*Don't let your hearts to troubled.*

*Believe in Me.*

*Believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me.*

*Obey what I command.*

*Do not be afraid.*

*Remain in Me.*

*Love each other as I have loved you.*

*Remember the words I have spoken to you: No servant greater than his Master.*

*You must testify.*

Promises that Jesus gives:

*CATEGORIES: Power, answered prayer, Holy Spirit, eternal life, love, fruit bearing, joy, peace*

*I am going to prepare a place and will come back to get you so you can be with Me.*

*If you have faith in Me, you will do greater things than I have done.*

*I will do whatever you ask in My name.*

*I will ask the Father to send the Comforter. He lives with you and will be in you.*

*I will come to you.*

*Because I live, you also will live.*

*He who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and show myself to him.*

*We will come and make our home with the ones who love Me and obey My teaching.*

*The counselor will teach you and will remind you of what I have said to you.*

*My peace I give you.*

*I will remain in you; you will bear much fruit.*

*Ask what you wish and it will be given you.*

*Your joy will be complete.*

*Your grief will turn to joy.*

*You will rejoice and no one will take away your joy.*

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*My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.*

*Ask and you will receive.*

*Your joy will be complete.*

*In Me you will have peace*

### Journaling

Looking at the commands that Jesus has given, think about things in your life that may be stealing your joy. Is it lack of faith or love or prayer? Is it disobedience? Is it not abiding faithfully in Him? Write about ways in which you can rid your life of joy stealing actions or attitudes and about what positive substitutes you will put in their place.

### Prayer

Ask God to reveal to you how you might experience more fully the joy that He has for you. Commit to following Him more obediently, to abiding in Him, to meditating upon His Word, and to loving His followers. Ask Him to fill you to the brim with the joy of His Spirit. Thank Him for His faithfulness in answering your prayer.