

**Sermon Title: Enjoying God, On Mission, Week Two**

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**Sermon Questions:**

1. What are some things people commonly look to for joy that eventually leave them empty or tired?
2. What threat is currently hijacking your joy right now?
3. Read Jeremiah 2:13. What does that image help you understand about your own habits, desires, or coping strategies? Where might you be digging your own cisterns instead of going to God for living water?
4. What practices or experiences have helped move knowledge from your head to your heart?
5. What most helps you enjoy God right now?

**Sermon Transcript**

Good to see all of you. So we're continuing in a series called On Mission. And you just heard a few times over our mission statement here as a church, which is to cultivate a community that enjoys God and transforms the world through the gospel. I hope you're not tired of it. We're gonna keep saying it, not just through this series, but every single week.

We're gonna continue to say it and say it over and over and over. And the reason we do is cause we truly believe that God has cultivated. He's calling us to cultivate a community that enjoys God and transforms the world through the gospel. Now, if you were here last week, Pastor Greg started that series talking about what does it look like for us to cultivate a community. What kind of lives do we need to live?

Not lives alone, but lives with each other. Because we can't cultivate a community literally on our own. We also can't live the Christian life on our own either. And so even if you weren't here last week, that's okay. I'm gonna do a quick primer on where we were last week, and then we'll jump into where we're going this week.

So God's miss flows from the Trinity. It flows from community. God the Father, God the Spirit, God the Son. And so even as God breathed life into creation, as he created the world as we know it, he did so from the context of community. And he created us for community.

He's redeeming us as a people, not as individual people, but as a corporate people, as a body of Christ. He's creating us. He's redeeming us. He's calling us now to step into his mission. And ultimately, we can't embody his spirit, his love, his mission without each other.

This is what we read in John chapter 13, verses 34 and 35, Jesus says a new commandment I give to you that you are to love one another, just as I have loved you. You are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. So ultimately, if we have love for each other based on how we live in community, that is how the world around us knows that we belong to God. And so as we talk about our mission statement to cultivate a community, it's literally essential to the mission that we as a body of believers, get along.

And so that's step one. If you guys missed the sermon, you should go back and listen last week. That's just a little snippet of what it was. And so we're going to continue now into the next portion, which is that enjoys God. So if community is essential, and it is essential to the Christian belief, then what is its purpose?

The purpose is to enjoy God. Community is essential, but God's glory is ultimately the goal. Now, I don't know about you, but I've asked myself, and I've been asked by others, especially my children included, what is the purpose of life? How many of you guys have ever wondered that question for yourself? Yeah, every single one of you, like, most of you lied or you're just too embarrassed to raise your hand.

That's okay. Every single one of us have wondered, not just today, but for ages past, what is the purpose of life? What's the entire purpose of creation? Why are we here? What's the point?

I remember I was actually driving with my wife recently. I was like, you know, I've been going through a hard time. I'm kind of wondering, what's the point of all this? Like, even. Even deep into my relationship with God, I often ask myself, what's the point?

And this is a question we've all been struggling with for as long as humanity has been around. 380 years ago, there was a gathering of Scottish and English pastors that they. They gathered at what was called the Westminster Assembly. And for four years, I'm not joking, for literally four years, they came together and had a conference and they asked and they wrestled through these questions. They put together something called the Shorter Catechism.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism. If I'm giving you, like, if you're triggered right now because you grew up in a certain kind of church and you had catechism, I'm sorry, but the first question they asked, if you don't know what a catechism is, it's essentially a series of questions and answers to help us to understand what we believe as a Christian people. And the first question that they wrestled through was the question that we're asking today. What's the

purpose of life? Though they pose it a different way, they asked it this way, what is the chief end of man?

By chief end meaning, what is the main goal? What's the ultimate destination of mankind? And this is the answer that he came up with. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. Our entire purpose in life is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

So when we talk about our mission here, to cultivate a community that enjoys God and transforms the world through the gospel, just know that those words aren't trivial words that we just kind of throw together because we feel good about it. Our language, our theology, our doctrine, our mission. The things that we found ourselves here at New Life in our. In our old age of nearly 70 years. Those things are founded in things way older than us.

380 years ago, this question was asked and answered. But it's been going even longer than that. Jeremiah, in his ministry to Judah thousands of years ago, he was raised up as a prophet. He was called the Weeping Prophet. And his entire prophecy, his entire ministry was to come up against the nation of Judah and to say, guys, get your act together.

Like, don't you get. You're missing the entire point. Destruction is coming if you don't listen. This is. These are his words.

Jeremiah 2, verse 13. Speaking on God's behalf, He says, for my people have committed two evils. They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and have hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. He said, guys, you're looking for life in all the wrong places. God is the fountain of living water, and he gives of himself plentifully.

But you guys, you're digging for yourselves, your own cisterns, your own wells, trying to find water, trying to find life on your own. Does that sound familiar? It wasn't just a problem that Jeremiah was preaching against thousands of years ago. That's stuff that we live with today. Trying to find life on our own apart from God, trying to find joy on our own, apart from God, trying to.

Trying to go any way but the way that he's led us to. And God says, look, life cannot be found on your own. Joy, lasting, true joy cannot be found on your own. So where can it be found? Jeremiah continues.

Flip to chapter nine. We read these words in 23 and 24. Thus says the Lord. Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man boast in his might.

Let not the rich man boast in his riches. You guys, you try to find life in your wisdom and your riches in your. In your power and your own glory. Life's not found there. Verse 24.

But let him who boasts boast in this that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.

True life is found in knowing God. True joy is found in having a relationship with God. Those are the things worth boasting for. Those are the pursuits Worth pursuing. Those are the joys worth having joy in, God says.

And yet how often do we look for joy in other places? How often do we dig up cisterns of our own, try to dig our own wells and find our own joy, find our own life, provide it for ourselves? And then we wonder why life isn't working out. We look around and wonder why other people have it when we don't. Yet God invites us to find our life and our joy in him and him alone.

So enjoying God is necessary to the Christian life. It's not optional. It's a necessary part of our life in Christ. And yet it's also a struggle. Isn't it like.

Finding joy is often one of the most difficult things I try to do. But if we don't find our joy in God, we ultimately look elsewhere. And then those things that we find that joy in, those things ultimately become our functional God. We end up worshiping those things in place of God.

And I want to let you know, we don't drift into those places. It doesn't happen by accident. It happens by intentional practices or lack of practices. We don't drift into joylessness. We don't drift into idolatry.

Those things happen because we are not watching ourselves, because we're not being careful, because we're not in community where people are speaking to our lives or we're not receiving what they have to say. We cannot live this mission on our own. We cannot live this mission to live for our own joy. That's not the purpose. We do so for the joy of God.

So if the chief in demand is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever, my contention is this, is that we most glorify God when we enjoy Him. So what does that joy look like? If enjoying God is central, then we need to first be honest about what makes it so difficult. There are threats to all of our joy. And I'm not going to go through an exhausted list, but this is just five short threats to us finding our joy in God.

Number one is this is distraction and exhaustion. We often don't enjoy God because we're too busy with other often good things. We have all sorts of things filling our lives. We've got kids, sports. We've got extracurricular activities.

We've got clubs and golf and all that kind of fun stuff. There's so many cool things that we can

fill our time with. And yet if those things don't lead us to enjoying God and loving others, then those things are a waste. And ultimately they threaten Our enjoyment of God. Most of us, we don't reject God outright.

We just don't make time for Him. We rarely slow down enough to notice Him. But God invites us to slow down, to reevaluate where our lives are, our use of our time, our use of our. Of our energies. And this is the perfect time to do it.

As we hit a new year, as we step into new practices, as we evaluate and we consider what we want to do with our time, how intentional we want to be with certain practices, this is the time to renew that time with God and to say, I want to be intentional about enjoying you. So threat number one is distraction and exhaustion. Number two is anxiety and control. We don't enjoy God because our fear shrinks our world because we try to grasp control. We try to hold onto things.

We try to make sure that things happen only as we can manage them. And yet it's hard to delight in a God that we don't trust with our fears.

Let that sink in for a second. It's hard to delight in a God that we don't trust with our fears, that we hold those things to ourselves rather than to hand those things over to Him. And yet God invites us to lay our burdens down at his feet, to let him take those things up. Now I want to take a quick pause and introduce something you may have heard before. It's called a breath prayer.

If you haven't heard about it, it's okay. I just want to introduce what this looks like. It's really simple. You inhale, you say something, you exhale, you say something. So as we inhale, I want you guys to repeat with me.

I release control. We're doing this together, guys. All right? Now I gotta exhale and rehole. I release control.

I trust you. Let's do it again. I release control. I trust you. Like, what you did is you literally reset your body.

You reset it in a sense that now you're intentionally saying, God, I'm giving you control. God, just as in control, you are to give me my next breath. I give you everything else. I release what illusion of control I have. God, I give those things to you.

When you're feeling anxious, when you feel like you're fighting for control, just take a moment and say, God, I give that to you. I release control. I give it to you. Just Google breath prayers. There's millions of them out there.

There's ones for every single occasion. But in these moments, when you feel control taking over, when you feel life just tumbling out of your hands, out of your grasp just to say God. It was never in my control anyway. I give it to you. Threat number three.

Substitutes. We have substitutes. We have idols that we've placed in place of God and said that this is where our life is found. We don't enjoy God because we find lesser things to replace Him. We find, I don't know, your career, we find your finances, we find weekend plans, we find kids.

We find every good and decent, and we replace it and put it in place of God. That whatever gives us our deepest joy becomes our God. And there is no God but the one true God. And so we need to lay down those lesser things. God invites us to lay them down and to find our joy in him alone.

Threat number four is bitterness. We don't enjoy God because our hearts are locked up with bitterness toward him or toward other people. Bitterness and resentment hold our hearts.

It's like we're shackled. We're pinned down. We're in prison. A hard heart cannot experience true delight. And so God invites us to lay down our bitterness, our resentment, our displeasure.

The ways that we've been let down by him, by other people. To lay those things down to him, to. To cry out to him, the One who will never let us down. We cannot hold joy and resentment together at the same time. It's just not possible.

And so we lay down our bitterness and trust God. We trust him with vengeance. We trust him with justice. We trust him not to disappoint us. Number five.

Shame. Shame is a great threat to our joy in God. Because we don't enjoy God often. Because we don't think we deserve it. I don't know if you guys have ever felt that.

I feel that all the time, God. I don't. I don't deserve to. To feel joy. I don't deserve to be delighted in by you.

And yet God delights in us, his children. Not because we're Good enough. Romans 5, 8. That while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Not because we got our act together.

Not because we were good enough. He loved us. Period. Stop. End of sentence.

And so no amount of shame can get in the way. Should get in the way of us being delighted in by God and in return, delighting in Him. No amount of past sin can stop us from earning God's

love, no matter what we've done. We can confess those things to God and to others. We can bring those things into light.

We can find forgiveness. And we can say goodbye to shame. Because shame wants to hold us hostage. So we cannot enjoy God and not feel God's joy in us. So my question to you is this.

What is currently hijacking your joy? Maybe it's something we just talked about. Maybe it's one of those five. Maybe it's something else. I just want you to take some time this week to consider what is it that's hijacking my joy right now?

Because those things are getting in the way of me being delighted in by God and me delighting in him as well. God calls us to cultivate a community that enjoys him, but we can't enjoy him if we can't let go of those things. And maybe you don't know those things yourselves, but maybe you have a loved one who may be all too happy to share with you what those threats are for you. And that's okay. You can receive them.

You can receive them in the spirit that they're shared. You can receive them in a different spirit than they were shared. And that's okay too. And you can take those things to God and say, God help me with this. God help my unbelief.

God help me to overcome the shame. Because God is calling us to enjoy him. So how should we respond? It's not by forcing joy, but it's by reordering our lives toward God. That's where the spiritual disciplines come in.

Because we cannot enjoy a God that we truly do not know. So we have to get to know God. And one of the main ways that we can do that is through the spiritual disciplines. Now, before we get to that, because I just jumped touch, I want to revisit Jeremiah 9 in verse 24, Jeremiah says this, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.

So, so what is it that that God delights in? He delights in it when we know him. And yet is that just a. Like an intellectual informational pursuit of God or is there something else? So if you actually dive into the.

The Hebrew, which that's okay if you haven't the. The Hebrew word to know is this word yada. And the word yada, it. It means to know, but it also means to like experience. So when we read this word that he understands and knows me, that word to know.

If you go back to Genesis 4, chapter 1, it says that Adam knew Eve and she became pregnant. So that same word, to know, means to learn knowledge and to experience intimacy. And God's

not just saying, I want you to know me. I want you to read these books. I want you to go to Bible study every single week.

I want you to have a Bible reading plan. I want you to fast for like 80 days straight. Like, God's not saying those things. What he's saying is, I want you to know me the way that you want to be known, the way that you want to be experienced and cherished and pursued. I want you to experience me.

So when we read that God wants us to know him, that's what he's talking about. Hosea 6, chapter 6 says this. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. It's not saying he doesn't want offerings, he doesn't want sacrifices. He's saying, if you give me those things, but it's not based out of love, if it's based out of duty, if it's based out of principle, but it's not based on.

And then a heart experience where you want to know me and you love me and you want to sacrifice. That's like me showing up in a couple weeks on. What's that called? Valentine's Day. It's like me showing up on Valentine's Day and saying, hey, I'm supposed to get these.

Like, happy Valentine's Day. My wife would probably throw them away. And that's like, I wouldn't blame her. That's what we do with God when we sacrifice, when we give him offerings, but we don't give him our heart, when we don't actually seek to know him, not know him, but know Him. God calls us to know him.

Because you cannot enjoy a God that you do not truly know. To biblically know is not just to think rightly, but to experience God. That's what he invites us into. And so we know God through the spiritual disciplines. And the spiritual disciplines are not like advanced elite spiritual practices.

They're the very most basic spiritual practices is for all people, whether you are like a Christian for a minute or like a hundred years, it doesn't matter. All of us have the opportunity to practice the spiritual disciplines in order to experience God. Because ultimately what the, what the disciplines are is it's just us, like, getting in God's way. You know, like, there have been times where I've been so busy where somebody like my wife or one of my kids, like, literally has to get in my way to say, like, dustin, are you here? Like, shake me.

Are you here? Like, are you with us? Have you ever experienced that that's what the disciplines are. It's literally you putting yourself in God's way, saying, like, God, I'm here. Let's do this.

And it's a beautiful experience to get to know God now. It may not always yield what you want in the moment that you want it. And that's okay, because God's word does not return void. Our time with him does not return void. It is a beautiful experience.

Whether you feel like it's completely dry and pointless or it doesn't matter because you're spending time with your God, you're experiencing him. And ultimately, even if you don't feel it right away, it's gonna come. You're gonna feel the fruit of those experiences. Spiritual disciplines are for all of us. So I just wanna go through a few of those spiritual disciplines, give you, like, a real, real brief crash course.

Is it okay? All right, I'm gonna talk really quick. I'm sorry. So the first one, and this is not exhaustive, once again, these are just a few of the spiritual disciplines. The first is Bible reading.

There's Bible reading, Bible meditation, Bible memory. Those are three different ones, but that's okay. We're just gonna lump them together. All of those are just essentially letting God's words shape how we see and what we desire. Number two, prayer.

Prayer is about practicing dependence through honest relational conversation with God. To say God, like, I want to experience you. I wanna have a conversation with you. Just like we just practiced with the breath prayers. I release control.

I trust you. That's a simple prayer just to. To drive throughout your day and to say God, like, wow, that's such a beautiful sunset. Like, you are incredible. Just to describe him.

Glory. Like, that's a prayer. Just having a conversation with God. Number three, corporate and personal worship. We're doing this right now, guys.

We're. We're having corporate worship. You were practicing one of the disciplines. Like, congratulations. All right.

And there's also personal worship. And worship altogether is just responding with delight to show God's worth. To practice worship is literally to ascribe worth. So worth ship. It's about showing our worth, showing God his worth to us.

That is what worship is. Number four, silence and solitude. Silence and solitude are about creating space to connect with God without distraction. To go away to a quiet place, to put the dogs away, to turn your phone off, to throw your kids in their bedroom for a few minutes, and just to say, I need some quiet time before God and to just enjoy the silence and the solitude. And maybe it's Even just getting away, going to the mountain for a day, and to just live in the quiet, to experience the beauty of God.

Number five. Fasting. Fasting is about training your desire. So, so, so fasting literally to give something up in order to worship. So it's, it's training your desire by saying no to lesser things.

Saying, I'm, I'm just not gonna eat a meal. And instead of that meal, I'm gonna spend that same amount of time I would've been either gabbing with my coworkers or just eating. And instead of that, I'm just gonna sit in prayer in silence and I'm just gonna, like, talk to God. You can replace fasting that time with any of these practices. Next Sabbath.

Sabbath is about resting in God's provision. Rather than constantly try striving to prove yourself to, to prove your need to, to be enough. You are enough as you are. I mean, even God rested, though he doesn't need it. On the seventh day of worship, of creation, he rested.

And in doing so, He. He modeled for us the necessity of rest, of practicing Sabbath. Simplicity. Simplicity is about removing excess that competes for our tension and joy and finding contentment in what you already have. And to say, God, I don't need more.

I don't find joy in these things. I find joy in you. I can be content nonetheless. Next, fellowship. Fellowship is about enjoying God together through shared life and faith and to recognize that I am better together than I am alone.

I'm better when there's other people speaking in my life. I'm better when I'm encouraged and built up because I have perspective, because I can see that this isn't the end of the story. So and so got through this. I guess I could probably get through it too.

Next, confession and accountability. That's about bringing sin into the light for healing and for freedom, and saying, I don't have to have it all together. That's okay, because God loves me as I am and at least I can be honest about that and move forward in what he has for me. Next, service. Service is about expressing love for God through love for others.

To say, I can give back because God's been so good to me, I can serve them. I can meet their needs and trust that God's gonna meet mine. And lastly, generosity. Generosity is about releasing our trust in our possessions to deepen our trust in God and to say, God, you can do more with this than I can. You can do better with this than I can.

In fact, God, I trust you to take care of My needs, even though I'm giving up some of what I think is necessary because you, you're good, like I trust you. It's all yours. In the first place, all of these disciplines, none of them create joy. Not one of them, however, they do put you in the place. It kind of puts you in the way of God, as it were, in order to ultimately experience joy as you meet with Him.

They create space for joy, they create space for worship. The disciplines, they, they train our attention, they, they reorder our desires and they shape what we love. Because Bible knowledge on its own can't lead to love. It can't lead to a changed heart, a changed life. But as we experience God, as we come to know him, not just to know intellectually, but to know and

to experience him, he changes our hearts, he changes our lives, he changes our joy.

So my question to you is, what most helps you enjoy God today? As you reflect on your lives, as you reflect on your practices, as you look at your calendar and the things that you do, what is it that brings you the most joy? Not just joy in the general sense, but what brings you the most joy in God?

Maybe consider pursuing more of that. Because it's joy of God that leads to the best life. What's the chief end of man to glorify God, to enjoy him forever? As we enjoy him, we bring him glory. As we bring him glory, he delights in us.

It's a beautiful, beautiful cycle that just keeps going and going and going. So we pursue the knowledge of God, not just intellectual, but heart experiential knowledge and ultimately right knowledge and rightly ordered loves leads to right worship. What I mean by that is that as we learn the things of God, as we get to know those things, as we reorder our lives in order to experience him fully, it leads to beautiful and pure and loving worship. Going back to that, that verse in Hosea, God says like, I don't want your sacrifices, I don't want your offerings. Not if it's not attached to a heart that loves me.

Not if it's not attached to a heart that pursues a knowledge of Me. That that's wrongly ordered worship. But as we experience him, as we, as we know him, then we can be led to right worship. Psalm 34, verse 8 says this. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. God invites us to come, taste and to see that he's good. To take some of these practices, some of these spiritual disciplines, to put them into Practice and to just try him out. God says, test me in this. I promise you it'll be worth it.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. And he is. He is. As we experience God, as we reorder our lives, we are led to a place of right worship. But what is worship?

What is this idea of worship? Because we often look at the stage behind us, we think of music being played, and that's certainly an aspect of worship, but worship is so much bigger than that. Worship is this idea that we can ascribe God glory. And we can do that in everything that we can do. We can do that in every single way.

If we're going to show him worth, there's countless ways we can do that. Paul says it this way in First Corinthians 10, verse 31. He says, so whether you eat or drink, whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Every act that we do, every decision we make is an opportunity to worship. Every single moment of every day is a choice to worship God.

So it doesn't matter what exactly we're doing. All of it is right worship if we're giving it to God.

And just as a little caveat, when we think about worship, we can often wrongly think through the lens of. Of preference and think of worship as having our preferences met. There's been so many times that we're blessed to have amazing music here.

And I just want to say thank you to the team that puts so much time. I don't know if you guys realize, like, there's so much time and effort that not just the worship team, but the tech team put in as well to put on Sunday morning worship services. It's an incredible sacrifice that are almost all volunteers. And so thank you to the worship and tech team. However, it can be easy to put ourselves above them and to say, they're not meeting my needs.

Their preferences are different than my preferences. I mean, there's literally been people who have told us as a church that we don't understand what worship is. As if somehow their musical preferences supersede everybody else. And it's easy for us to put ourselves above and to say, if you don't meet my preferences, that this isn't worship. I wanna say, by the way, worship has never been about what you get out of it.

If it's about ascribing worth and glory to God, then it's not about you and you can get over yourself right now. Okay, I'm sorry. Like, it's okay. I came to an event one time the music was horrible. And I don't mean like preferentially horrible.

It was just like, I'm not even a musician. I know technically it was just bad.

And I had to, like, I had to have a conversation with myself. Dustin, this isn't about you. This, this guy appears like literally giving his all as a sweet offering to God. And I was really convicted that I was making this about myself. God invited me to just worship anyway.

And it ended up being one of the most, like, incredibly, like, blessed. Like, the biggest blessing of worship that I had in the recent past is to just get over myself for a minute and to say, God, you're still worth singing about, even if the music's not about me and something I like, that's okay. So worship is not consumeristic. It's also not joyless duty. It's also not just saying God, like, I hate this, but I'm just gonna, you know, I do it because I know I'm supposed to do it.

Like, God wants us to give our hearts to him and then eventually he's going to like, like change our desires. It's this weird thing how it works. And yet God doesn't just want us to like, dutifully do the thing because we know we're supposed to. That just goes back to Hosea, where we give gifts without love, where we give sacrifice without a right knowledge of God. So there's this, there's this nuance where it's not about our preferences, but it's also not about like joylessly giving to him either.

Like, he wants us to find the balance there. Right knowledge and rightly ordered worship leads. Our rightly ordered loves leads to right worship. And this only happens, it can only happen

when we are meeting with and enjoying God. So if we don't have that first part down, where we're practicing the disciplines, where we're, we're, we're exposing those threats, we're working through those things and we're trying to like, pursue God and experience him anyways, we're not gonna have that right worship.

We're not gonna have that perspective. We're not gonna have the opportunities unless we're there in front of God daily asking him to speak to us. So what do we do with all this? How do we bring this home? I've got three simple applications.

Number one is a personal application, and that is this. To pursue the knowledge of God that leads to delight, not just to information. Choose one of those disciplines that we talked through. Maybe you've got a book of disciplines that's cool. Like, you can go through that.

There's lots of books out there. Most of them are really good. You don't need one. If you, if you just want to go through that list that we just talked about, that's cool. Like, just pick a discipline, practice it, try it out, test Scott on that theory and see how it goes.

You guys need help with those things. Like, there's gonna be prayer partners up here up front afterwards, like, come talk to one of us. And we would love to talk to you about some disciplines or some practices to help get into experience God on a daily basis. Read Scripture to meet God, to experience him. Number two is a communal invitation, and that's for us together as a church to commit to practicing the enjoyment of God with others.

To say, I can't do this by myself. I can't cultivate a community by myself. I can't live the Christian life. I can't enjoy God by myself. So let's do this together.

There's a few ways coming up in just the next few weeks that we as a body can do this together. The first one is something that happens every single week. I don't know if you guys realize, but every single Wednesday morning here at the Cortero campus, we have something called Worship Wednesdays at 8am it's in room seven. And whether you're from the Gladden campus or from Coro, you're welcome to come here, to come partake in worship Wednesdays. And just to say, no matter what's going on in my life, even if circumstances are just like the worst, doesn't matter where you're at in life, you can come on Wednesdays at 8am just as you are, to just experience the glory of God.

The second is this is on January 23rd, we're going to be having a women's ministry event called Informed, and it's actually a workshop on the spiritual disciplines. And so if you want to dive deeper into the spiritual disciplines and find out what they're all about, we're. We're having somebody come in to speak about them. If you have questions, Stacey McLaren's right here. Or you can scan the QR code, you can find out more information, you can register.

We would love for you to dive in and to be a part of that. And if you're not in community, if you're trying to figure out what this life looks like on your own, or maybe you're trying something new and you want to do it with other people, we've got new groups launching on February 4th, we're doing the Group Connect and groups are launching across both campuses where you can be a part of a group of believers right where you're at. You can scan the code here to register for that, or you can just show up on February 4th here at the Cortero campus to jump into a new group. And if you want to be a part of an existing group, that's okay. Like, you don't have to be a part of one of the new groups that launched.

You can jump into an existing group as well. Let me know if you have any questions with that. The point of all of this is to not live life on your own. Is to cultivate a community that enjoys God together, to recognize that we are better together. The last, last application is this is to let your enjoyment of God overflow for your love toward others.

Outside on the table today there's signups for Love Tucson. And we're actually going to be having an all church service day on February 8th. And so if you guys show up for the 8:30 service or 10:30 service on February 8th, you're gonna be sad and alone. Cause we're not gonna be here. We're gonna be at Coyote Trails Elementary School as a whole body to say, look, God loves us and we love you, our neighbors.

And we want to make an impact here. So we invite you guys to join us, all of you. Like, it'll be a problem because there'll be like eight minutes of work if you all show up. But that's okay. Let's do it.

And then we can all just have a giant barbecue. Okay? It'll be a beautiful time. So let's give back. Let's take it to the next step in that mission statement, to transform the world through the gospel.

We can do that together. Communally. The world is transformed when God's worth is made visible through a joyful people. And ultimately we cultivate community because God is glorious. We practice disciplines because enjoyment is threatened.

We worship because delight demands a response. And ultimately we live on mission because we cannot keep our joy contained. Will you pray with me, Father? God, we thank you for this day. We thank you, Lord, for your love for us and God.

Ultimately you invite us to show you love back, God, to enjoy you and to bring you glory. Lord, would you help us to do that? God help us, God, to find our joy in you. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.