

5. What is “work” you’ve done where you have sensed God’s pleasure and the work itself increased your joy?

6. How are joy and generosity connected in your mind and experience?

7. What is a simple pleasure that has gotten crowded out by other priorities or busyness that you would like to include again in your life?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Everything

“How to Unlock Deeper and More Enduring Happiness”

Job 38:4-7; Genesis 1-2

The Joy in God’s Ownership of Everything

Everything belongs to God because he _____ it. (Colossians 1:16)

When we live like everything belongs to God, we experience greater _____.
(Psalm 100:2-3)

When we live like everything belongs to God, we experience greater joy because...

- Our hearts are set on whatever has _____ value instead of things that we will eventually and inevitably lose.

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” (C.S. Lewis)

- We are made for God and his _____. (Psalm 16:11)
- God can be _____ with everything.

If God can’t be trusted with everything, he can’t be trusted with _____.

Joy is deep and enduring happiness, and we want it because...

- Joy crowds out _____ and fear.
- Joy is _____.
- Joy is the way it’s _____ to be. (Job 38:4-7)

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Everything belongs to God. Everything as in...

The BODY you have	The SUCCESS you've achieved
The TIME you inhabit	The POSSESSIONS you hold
The PLEASURES you relish	The WORK you perform
The POWER you wield	The STRENGTHS you possess
The INFLUENCE you apply	The CHILDREN entrusted to your care

Deuteronomy 8: 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...

How to Unlock Greater Joy

1. Be _____ to God for everything he made.

"[Gratitude is] first an affirmation of goodness. We affirm that there are good things in the world, gifts and benefits we've received.... [Second] we recognize that the sources of this goodness are outside of ourselves."
(Robert Emmons)

2. _____ everything God made for his purposes. (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 25:21)

The earth is created to be God's temple, and his image bearers serve both as his priests for the earthly temple and his _____ over the earth. He ordains them, and delegates his kingship, and endows them with authority to rule in his name. We are designed to be royal priests.

3. Enjoy everything God created for our _____. (1 Timothy 6:17; Genesis 2:2; Mark 2:27)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Describe one of your simple joys in life.
3. Read Job 38:4-7. What are some of the reasons you suppose the angels would shout for joy over God's work of creation?
4. What are you doing, or what can you do, to practice thanksgiving and gratitude better in your life?