



SUNDAY MORNING

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

NO GREATER JOY

3 JOHN 1-8

NOVEMBER 23, 2014

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Pray for any "living crosses" in your life, whether your own children or not. Pray that God would grant them spiritual birth and that He would grow them up in Christ.
- If you don't already have a spiritual "parent," seek out an older believer to walk with you. If you're not already spiritually "parenting" a younger believer, look for someone to "parent."
- Study the passages in the "For Further Study" section.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **General:** Deut. 6:4-9; John 1:9-13; 1 John 1:5-10
- **Spiritual parenting:** 1 Cor. 4:14-17; Gal. 4:19; 1 Tim. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:11-12; Philem. 10; Phil. 2:22
- **For the joy of others:** John 15:11; 2 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:25
- **For the joy of the next generation:** Deut. 4:9; Ps. 48:12-14; 71:17-18; 78:1-8; 145:4; 2 Tim. 3:14-15
- **Recommended blog:** Meet Gus Lambrides | <http://bit.ly/11Cl7c8>

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

1. What does it mean to be someone's "spiritual parent?"
- 2. Who have been some of your "spiritual parents?" What have they done to help you in your relationship with God?**
- 3. Are you currently serving as a "spiritual parent" to anyone? What does that look like?**
4. What does it mean to walk in the truth? Why is *knowing* the truth both necessary and not enough? What does it look like to *not* walk in the truth?
5. How can John say that he has no greater joy than to hear that others (especially his spiritual children) are walking in the truth? How is your own heart affected when you see others walking in the truth? What about when you see those who aren't?
- 6. One of the essentials for pursuing our joy in the joy of the next generation is being serious about imparting truth to our children. What pattern do we see for how to do this in Deuteronomy 6:5-9? How do we cultivate a burning desire to obey in our own hearts first?**
- 7. Who are some of the "living crosses" in your life – those close to you who are not walking in truth? While praying for these, why must we: (1) beware the accuser of the brethren, (2) surrender all worldly claims upon their lives, (3) remember it's not over until it's over, and (4) submit to the sovereign hand of God?**
8. What are some ways that all of us can increase our joy by working for the joy of the next generation?

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Ask God to restore to you the joy of your own salvation. (Ps. 51:12)
- Thank God for the spiritual parents He's given you and for the joy of getting to be a spiritual parent to others.
- Ask God to increase your joy by bringing spiritual life and maturity to those close to you.
- Ask God to help us faithfully pass down a joy in God to the next generation.