



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 21 November 2021

Week 6 – Following The Pattern of Joy Philippians 4

1. What most encouraged you from this final session – 'Following the Pattern of Joy'?

Please read John 15.9-11

2. Who is our perfect pattern for a life of godliness and joy? According to Jesus, how can we know and grow in godliness and joy in our lives?

Please read Philippians 4.4-9

*In Sunday's sermon, I describe joy as being part of the bigger pattern of godliness. I suggest we can find several elements of this pattern in the passage: **joy**(v4); **love/gentleness** (v5, see also Eph 4.2, Matt 11.29); **accountability to Christ** (v.5, "the Lord is near"); **prayerfulness** (V6); **thankfulness** (V6); **the peace of God** (v7); **focus** (V8) and **application** (v9).*

3. Which parts of this pattern of godliness do you feel you are following regularly, and in which areas do you feel you are 'dropping stitches'?
4. Why do you think that our lack of following the pattern in any of these elements will affect our joy?
5. In Philippians 3.7 Paul encourages the Philippians to "join together in following my example." Why is it so much better to follow the pattern of godliness together than trying to do it alone?
6. Why is it so helpful for us to be able to follow the pattern seen in other believers' lives, as they follow the pattern of Christ?
7. How do you feel about being a pattern of godliness for others to follow?

8. What have been some of the things you have learned about joy from this 6-week series in Philippians?
9. How has it impacted your understanding and experience of joy / rejoicing in the Lord – whatever your circumstances in life?