

**Experiencing and expressing “divine contentment”
as a leader**



In light of this teaching prayerfully answer the following as it relates to you becoming the leader God desires you to be:

1. *What is God’s Word saying to you right now?*

2. *What do you want to say to God? (Write out a prayer)*

3. *What do you want to say to those you lead? (Write out one action step to becoming a better leader to those you lead)*

4. *What do you want to say to yourself? (Write a down one thing you can do this week that will help you keep in step with the Spirit)*

Digging Deeper

Read John 15-16 and discuss how Jesus prepared his disciples for experiencing true joy.

Lesson #3

Spiritual Leaders Project Divine Contentment

Understanding Biblical Joy

Text: Philippians 1:12-26

Thoughts to Ponder

“A saint doesn’t know the joy of the Lord in spite of tribulation, but because of it.”

– Oswald Chambers

“For business reasons, I must preserve the outward signs of sanity.”

– Mark Twain

“Joy is not gush; joy is not jolliness. Joy is simply perfect acquiescence in God’s will; because the soul delights itself in God himself... rejoice in the will of God, and in nothing else. Bow down your heads and your hearts before God, and let the will, the blessed will of God, be done”.

– Amy Carmichael

Understanding Biblical Joy (Read Philippians 1:12-26)

1. *What are a few words that could describe the circumstances that the Apostle Paul was facing? (vs. 12-17)*

2. *How does Paul describe the bright side of his circumstances? (vs. 13-14, 18)*

3. *What did Paul find joy in? (vs. 18)*

4. *What was the source of joy that Paul was experiencing? (vs. 19)*

5. *What does courage have to do with experiencing joy? (vs. 20)*

6. *What does the phrase, "so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body" have to do with experiencing joy? (vs. 20)*

7. *What does the phrase, "For to me, to live is Christ" have to do with experiencing joy? (vs. 21)*

8. *Again Paul describes the bleak circumstances he was facing in verses 22-24. Describe his attitude under these circumstances.*

9. *How is Paul's life and example going to affect the Philippians? (vs. 25-26)*

DEFINING JOY

10. *What words would you use to define joy?*

11. *What experience in your life has helped you define joy?*

12. *Describe an experience in your life where you experienced divine contentment in the midst of a difficult situation.*
