

### **Joy in God's Presence**

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
For all the gods of the nations are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.  
Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and joy are in his dwelling place.

I Chronicles 16:25-27

You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16:11

### **Seeking joy elsewhere**

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.'  
So he divided his property between them.  
Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Luke 15:11-12

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

Romans 1:25

### **The father's response**

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

### **Joy in his father's presence**

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

...So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:20, 24

### **A son's complaint**

...the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

...The older brother became angry

Luke 15:25-28

### **A father's blessing unrecognized**

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Luke 15:31-32

They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

I Timothy 4:3-5

### **Joy experienced**

The fruit of the spirit is joy  
Joy in God's gifts  
Joy in service  
Joy in hope