

Psalm 126 (*msg*)

¹⁻³ It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when God returned Zion's exiles.
We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.
We were the talk of the nations—
"God was wonderful to them!"
God was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.
⁴⁻⁶ And now, God, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives
So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout "Yes!" at the harvest,
So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

This Week's *Verses*

Psalm 126
1 Kings 10:14
Amos 6:1
Amos 6:4-6
Amos 6:12
2 Chronicles 36:15-21
Psalms 137:1-4

Nehemiah 8:9-10
Psalm 16:11
Psalm 37:4
John 15:11

Joy
Psalm 126

Week 7

Songs of Ascent

Daily Reading

Joy Psalm 126

No matter where we find ourselves, we trust that God is good and will bring His good to us. The focus of Psalm 126 is on God and what He has done and will do again. The Bible speaks of joy, not like we experience on our own, but the kind that is characterized by God. The whole Old Testament's sacrificial system was put into place so we could be returned to relationship with God again, to the joy and hope and redemption we were meant to live in. It is why everything in the Bible points to the eventual coming of Jesus because God did not and does not leave us in our brokenness of sin and rebellion. Jesus says in *John 15:11* *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.* God brings us new life, life full of life and joy.

Read the Psalm each day as you answer the daily questions.

Day 1 Reflect: What about God seems “too good to be true” to you?

Pray: Praise God for His many blessings and His overwhelming goodness.

Day 2 Reflect: How can you celebrate God's goodness with others?

Pray: Ask God to show you how you can invite others into worship of who He is by sharing what He has done.

Day 3 Reflect: In what current areas (or “droughts”) do you need to be reminded of God's goodness?

Pray: Talk to God honestly about any struggles and ask Him to flood you with a deep understanding of His goodness.

Day 4 Reflect: How can the struggles and challenges in your life deepen your gratitude?

Pray: Think back to the struggles God has walked through with you and thank Him for His faithfulness.

Day 5 Reflect: Does your life demonstrate a joy and gratitude inspired by God's blessings?

Pray: Ask God to deepen your joy so that it overflows and encourages those around you.

Community Discussion

As you gather as a community, discuss what you learned through the daily readings.

What kinds of things bring you enjoyment?

What things do you think *should* bring enjoyment, but don't?”

How does a life centered on Jesus bring about a character marked by joy, exuberance, and enthusiasm?

How does deep satisfaction make it easier to resist temptation?

How can we experience deeper joy and satisfaction in Jesus?

How can you better demonstrate joy in your life?

Have you ever seen your joy about something become infectious to others?

Have you ever seen your joy *in* Jesus be infectious to others?

What would it look like if we, as believers, were united by our joy, rather than what we were against?

Songs of *Ascent*