

Author and speaker Margaret Feinberg is at the table to tell us about a difficult battle with cancer and a choice that changed everything—the choice to "fight back with joy." Discover how joy is more than just whimsy, it's a weapon God has given us to fight life's battles.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When was the last time you felt hopeless, defenseless, and unsure of your next step? Think for a moment about the weapons you have in such times. Read 2 Chronicles 20:12. Now think about the weapons you have for battle.
- C.S. Lewis once said that laughter is the serious business of heaven. Is there a connection between laughter and joy? Consider passages like Proverbs 15:30 and 17:22. Why do we miss joy? What takes its place?
- What does it look like to respond with joy when you don't feel like it? It's like a joy bomb we can drop on others; and God is in the joy-bomb business according to James 1:17. Would you agree that sometimes we have to give joy in order to experience it?
- Do you know what the term joy-bomber means? Read Luke 10:1, 17 to get a better idea. Do you think you could be a joy-bomber in the life of someone experiencing a difficult time? Why or why not?
- None of us like to experience pain and struggle, nor do
 we want to become involved in the pain of others—much
 like the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30–37.
 For a moment, think of what you do have to help others
 as opposed to thinking about what you don't have. What
 resources come to mind? does this mean for us today?



We're talking about joy and the power it provides during times of struggle. To prepare for this week, do a quick word study of how often the word joy appears in the Bible. Then think about someone you know who could benefit from the power of joy. Finally, ask God to help you see joy in a whole new light as you journey through times of personal struggle and ways you can help others in their time of pain.



"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones" (Proverbs 15:30).



God, I want to understand joy. I want to know how to incorporate it into my life and how to be a vessel of joy in reaching out to others. Through Your Spirit, fill me with joy and give me opportunities to love others with the joy only Christ can bring. Amen.

