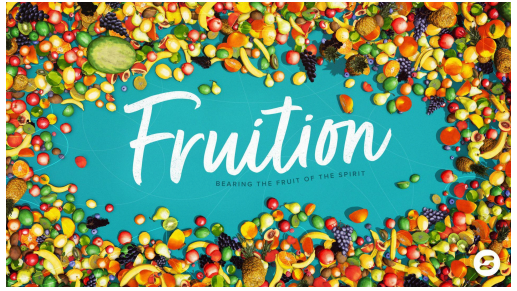


# STUDY GUIDE

July 21

## STAY IN THE LOOP

*Announcements*



- Sports Camp evenings from August 11-15 still have room in most sports, so get registered for your spot!

## START WITH PRAYER

*Use this Prayer Prompt*

Thank God for His abundant goodness. Ask God to shape our perspectives and help us embrace the goodness He has in store for us. Ask God to help us live with gratitude even when things do not turn out the way we want.

## STUDY THE BIBLE

*Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:*

Jeremiah 31:12

Hosea 14:7

Amos 9:13-14

John 2:1-10

## STIR UP DISCUSSION

*How does this week's teaching affect me personally?*

1. In this miracle, Jesus turns water into wine at a wedding feast, revealing His glory and sparking joy among the guests. How does this event illustrate God's abundant provision and His desire to bring joy into our lives unexpectedly?
2. Toxic positivity, where people feel pressured to be happy regardless of their circumstances can be dangerous. How does

biblical joy differ from toxic positivity, and why is it important to understand this distinction in our Christian walk?

3. Joy in the biblical context often comes from secular blessings, not just spiritual experiences. How does this challenge our understanding of joy as Christians today, and what can we learn about finding joy in everyday moments?
4. The passage connects joy with the messianic kingdom and Jesus' role as the Messiah. How does Jesus' first miracle at Cana point towards the deeper joy and fulfillment found in God's kingdom, and how can we experience this joy in our lives today?
5. We experience joy when we accept goodness when it comes and live out of gratitude. Reflect on a time when unexpected joy or blessing brought you closer to God or transformation in your life. How did this experience deepen your faith and impact your understanding of God's love and provision?

## **STEP INTO ACTION**

*Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.*

1. *Be prepared to accept goodness when it comes.* Don't let the negative things in life make you become so bitter that you are not able to enjoy it when good things happen.
2. *Live out of gratitude.* We all have something to be thankful for. Remind yourself of those things, even if you have to write it down.
3. *Further up and further in.* Be open to growing into a deeper relationship with God.