

# WE ARE FPCM

**INTRO:** The Christian life is typified by Joy. Over its long history, Christianity has often lost sight of joy, preferring an emphasis on more austere elements like sacrifice, obedience, and purity. Christians can often be seen as kill-joys when in fact nothing should be farther from the truth. At Creation, God made a good world for us to live in filled with good joys. It is worshipful to eat a good meal, laugh with friends, dance, play, and enjoy the world God has given.

1. What is a hobby that brings you joy?

## **READ Ecc. 3:1-14**

1. Looking at the list, what time is it in your life?
2. Does verse 13 feel Christian or pagan to you? Why?
3. What does God do so that people will fear Him? Why does fear matter?

## **SERMON QUESTIONS:**

1. How have Christians historically set themselves against happiness or fun?
2. Think about your own faith life. Is “happy” a descriptor you would use? Why/why not?
3. Where is the line where an emphasis on laughter, dancing, eating and drinking, and finding satisfaction feels unchristian?
4. Why do you think God wants laughter, dancing, and enjoyment for His followers?
5. What is the most fun you have had with fellow Christians?
6. Take some time to take stock of FPC and your small group. Do we laugh enough? How can we be influences of joy in our community?

**OUTRO:** God made this world pleasing and enjoyable. Have you ever gone sledding? Danced like an idiot because it was fun? Climbed a tree? Eaten a delicious meal? Laughed so hard you could barely breathe? These are no less God’s gifts than prophecy or healing. He is no less present in them than in prayer or preaching. God has filled the earth with pleasurable things and has made you to find pleasure in them. This world is God’s good gift. Enjoy!

## **PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray that you would find God’s presence in joy and happiness.)