

Handouts for Real Question 6

What gives you a deep sense of joy?



Real Question 6, Part 4: God Speaks Scripture Handout

Gospel of St John, Chapter 20, verses 19-20.

The day of Christ's Resurrection – Jesus appears to the disciples

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jewish authorities. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you." And after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Sharing the Blessing Questions from RQ6

- What caught your attention? A particular word or little phrase, or picture? What is going on here? What does it say about Jesus? About the disciples and how they felt?
- How did you feel in your own experience of deep joy? What was the range of emotions? Looking back, what are the blessings that stay with you from this experience?
- What might God be saying to you about your life, and the whole mystery of God being with us in our experiences in different ways, bringing a surprising gift of joy? A word of blessing, or encouragement? "I feel blessed because..."

Real Question 6, Closing Prayer Handout

After each person has shared their one-line story of joy, beginning "Thank you for the joy of..." and placed it in the focus space, and is blowing some joyful bubbles, the Leader says: Thank you God for the blessings of deep joy!

And everyone responds: Thank you God for the blessings of deep joy!

Holy Mystery of God,

In our past, and in our present, in this place and at this moment,
You come to make our joy complete, surprising us in wonder, blessing us with peace.
As we count the blessing of joy in the ordinary and extraordinary reality of our lives,
Renew us through the telling of our stories,
And fill us afresh with the strength that comes from your joy, whatever our circumstances.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

AMEN

The Counting our Blessings Prayer

Let our friendships be strong, O Lord, that they become a blessing to others.
Let our friendships be open O Lord, that they may be a haven for others.
Let our friendships be gentle O Lord, that they may bring peace to others, In Jesus name.

AMEN

Peace be with you!

TEMPLATE

Provide enough strips of paper/card and pens/colours in the basket on the prayer focus for each person to write their "joy story" in 7-10 words during the Closing Prayer .

"Thank you for the joy of



"Thank you for the joy of



"Thank you for the joy of

