



### **The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy**

*Jesus said "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." John 15.11*

The story of Jesus is a story of great joy, from the joy of John the Baptist in his mother's womb, to the tidings of great joy announced by the angels to the shepherds, and the wise men who rejoiced when the star stopped over the stable in Bethlehem to the joy of Easter when the women found the empty tomb and the disciples ate with Jesus.

Parable talk about those who believe as "receiving the word with joy" (Matthew 13:20), chapter 15 of Luke tells us "*there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents,*" and John 16:24 speaks of the joy of answered prayer: "*Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.*"

The delights of sunshine, of blooming flowers, of children blowing bubbles and of the sun on the lake bring me joy.

Take a few moments to reflect on how you experience God's joy, even in the midst of this season of seclusion.