The Joy-Driven God-Centered Life
Session 1: The Biblical Basis for God-Centeredness.


17 Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
19 God, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.  

What is the mission statement of Neighborhood Church?
To inspire among all peoples an overflowing joy in God through Jesus Christ.

What is Neighborhood Church’s discipleship process?

Discovering joy in God:

Developing joy in God:

Displaying joy in God:

Declaring joy in God:

What is Joy-Driven God-Centeredness?

Joy-Driven God-Centeredness is an understanding of Scripture that sees our joy in God as the means by which he is most glorified in us.

Joy-Driven God-Centeredness is a philosophy of ministry by which we intentionally seek to promote joy in God through every aspect of our ministry.

1 All Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV)
Joy-Driven God-Centeredness is a perspective on life which sees God as the center and the display of His glory as the purpose of everything. Furthermore, it seeks to delight in Him above all things, serving out of delight rather than duty.

What is the Biblical basis for God-centeredness?

1) Scripture describes God as the all glorious center of all things.

   a) Romans 11:33-36.

   33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
   34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”
   35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”
   36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

   b) 1 Corinthians 8:5, 6.

   5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

   c) Colossians 1:16, 17.

   16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

   d) See also Romans 16:27; Ephesians 3:21; Philippians 4:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 2:10; 1 Peter 5:11; 2 Peter 3:18; Jude 24, 25; Revelation 1:6; 5:13; 7:12.

2) God’s character demands that He be the all glorious center of all things.

   a) Exodus 20:5, 6.

   5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
b) **Exodus 34:12-14.**

12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. 13 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

c) **Deuteronomy 4:23, 24.**

23 Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. 24 For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

3) **God acts to demonstrate that He is the all glorious center of all things.**

a) **Psalm 106:8.**

8 Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

b) **Isaiah 48:9-11.**

9 “For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

c) **Ezekiel 20:8, 9.** (See also 20:14, 22, 44.)

8 But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. “Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. 9 But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

d) **Romans 15:8, 9.**

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”
e) Ephesians 1:5, 6. (See also 1:11-14.)

5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

f) See also Daniel 9:1-19; Isaiah 42:8.

4) Creation itself declares that God is the all glorious center of all things.


1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.
4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...

b) Romans 1:18-20.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

5) Believers are designed to display and declare that God is the all glorious center of all things.

a) Isaiah 43:6-7.

6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,
7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

b) Matthew 5:16.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

c) 1 Corinthians 10:31.

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.