

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

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## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR EUPHORIC: A Joy Ride Through Philippians

Joy. It's a good word. It's a happy word. It's a word that's often confused with happiness. Happiness is something we all know about and are looking for. We drive ourselves to all kinds of extremes in the name of happiness. But happiness isn't joy. Happiness relies on what we can see and how we feel, which means that happiness often seems just out of reach. Then there's joy. Joy is what we're promised in the Bible. It's not dependent on circumstances or emotions but instead based in something real, solid, and lasting. Joy is based in Christ, so it endures through situations and occasions, no matter how scary, hurtful, or challenging they are. We're calling this *euphoric* joy.

## "EUPHORIC" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – See It (Philippians 1:12-24) |** Paul’s journey from a black-and-white life to a full-color life didn’t happen without challenges. But the key to Paul’s joy, especially when he faced a challenging circumstance, was how he chose to see it. And like Paul, we can find euphoric joy when we see our circumstances through God instead of the other way around.
- **Session 2 – Be It (Philippians 2:1-11) |** The next step after *seeing* opportunities for euphoric joy is learning how to *be* this kind of joy with others. To do this, we must step off the ladder of self-promotion, where we have to try to push others down to climb toward success. Instead, we can live with radical love and care for others instead of ourselves. When we follow Christ in humility, we can be a community that lives in euphoric joy.
- **Session 3 – Chase It (Philippians 3:8-14) |** Once we’ve learned how to see and be euphoric joy, we can hit the ground running. Paul used all his zeal and determination to continue following Jesus no matter what, and he encourages us to do the same. We have a prize worth attaining, a Savior worth pursuing, and a race worth running. It’s up to us to chase it.
- **Session 4 – Choose It (Philippians 4:1-9) |** Before we ever see, come to be, or chase euphoric joy, we have to choose it. Paul called the Philippians to rejoice, and that’s an intentional decision we have to make every day of our lives. There comes a time when we need to step up and choose the euphoric joy that Jesus offers us.

## "EUPHORIC" IS PART OF YM360’S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- “Master teacher” format

# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND  
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL  
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM  
IMAGES**



**LOGO  
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Euphoric Sermon Series | Session 1: See It**

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**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | Dear God, thank You for allowing me this opportunity to preach Your Word. I pray that over these four sessions, my students will come to know You and Your Son on a deeper, more intimate level. I pray that they would find great joy in their lives no matter the circumstances because, through the Holy Spirit, we can have abundant joy that is not contingent on this world. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay a debt that we couldn't pay so that we could have that kind of joy through and in Him. Please give me the words to say so that Your name may be glorified above everything else. Please prepare the hearts of my students to hear this message so that they would learn to love you more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## ***Euphoric Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare***

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**Series Snapshot** | *Euphoric* is a four-session sermon series that will not only teach your students about joy but also how to choose joy in their everyday lives. By walking through the book of Philippians, your students will learn from Paul that Christ provides them an unconditional joy, but that they have to make the choice to accept it and live in it. They will discover how to see, be, chase, and choose this joy offered to them through Jesus.

**Series Overview** | Joy. It's a good word. It's a happy word. It's a word that's often confused with happiness. Happiness is something we all know about and are looking for. We drive ourselves to all kinds of extremes in the name of happiness. But happiness isn't joy. Happiness relies on what we can see and how we feel, which means that happiness often seems just out of reach. Then there's joy. Joy is what we're promised in the Bible. It's not dependent on circumstances or emotions but instead based in something real, solid, and lasting. Joy is based in Christ, so it endures through situations and occasions, no matter how scary, hurtful, or challenging they are. We're calling this *euphoric* joy.

- **Session 1 – See It (Philippians 1:12-24)** | Paul's journey from a black-and-white life to a full-color life didn't happen without challenges. But the key to Paul's joy, especially when he faced a challenging circumstance, was how he chose to see it. And like Paul, we can find euphoric joy when we see our circumstances through God instead of the other way around.
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### ***Euphoric Series | Session 1***

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**Large Group Teaching Summary** | Paul's journey from a black-and-white life to a full-color life did not happen without challenges. But the key to Paul's joy, especially when he faced a challenging circumstance, was how he chose to see it. And like Paul, we can find euphoric joy when we see our circumstances through God instead of the other way around.

**Key Takeaway** | Seeing my circumstances through God and His character enables me to live in joy.

**Scripture Focus** | Philippians 1:12-24

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration: Road Trip (Personal Story), Optional Illustration: Pleasantville (Picture/Video), Optional Illustration: Broken Glass (vase, 2 pieces of glass)*

### I. Introduction

#### A. *Optional Illustration: Road Trip*

1. **NOTE: Open the series by sharing a personal story of your favorite road trip. Make it really entertaining and fun. As you tell the story, emphasize any challenges you encountered, unexpected occurrences, or things that went wrong that you ended up laughing about later.**
  2. Road trips don't always go exactly the way we planned. Surprises, both good and bad, seem to pop up out of nowhere. Sometimes we even wonder why we decided to go on vacation and if we'll ever get back home because we're so tired, sore, frustrated, and even grumpy. If you've ever spent a week at Walt Disney World, you *know* this on a personal level. Visiting the Mouse is awesome, but at the end of the day, when everyone is on the bus back to the hotel, the excitement level is not the same as it was that morning because everyone is hot, tired, and cranky.
  3. But even though vacations can drain us, once we get home and begin to tell people about our vacation, what do we remember? Of course, we recall the fun we had! We reminisce about the funny things people said, the thrill of riding the rides, and the unexpected surprises that we enjoyed along the way. And if we remember the challenging times, they don't seem quite as rough in hindsight. In fact, they can even seem quite comical. This phenomenon is what makes a road trip a road trip.
- B. Have you ever thought of your life as one big road trip? Just as a road trip is a journey that we travel that's full of good things and bad things, so is life. And as we go through life, many surprises, both good and bad, will come our way. Life hands us moments of great fun and moments of great challenge. But as we travel the journey of life and go through all these ups and downs, we soon begin to wonder what this road trip is really all about. Are we supposed to live simply by reacting to the roller-coaster moments or the run-out-of-gas-on-a-lonely-road moments? Should our emotions and decisions be determined for good or bad by our circumstances? Or IS THERE A WAY TO TRAVEL THROUGH LIFE WITH A CONSTANT SENSE OF JOY THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS?
- C. Welcome to our new series, *Euphoric!* In this series, we're going to see that this kind of joy really is possible, even when moments of happiness escape us. The word we're going to use for this kind of joy is "euphoric" because one way to define euphoric is: "A FEELING, OF WELL-BEING OR ELATION, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT IS GROUNDLESS, DISPROPORTIONATE TO ITS CAUSE, OR INAPPROPRIATE TO ONE'S LIFE SITUATION." By looking at the life of Paul, we're going to discover that as we travel on the road trip of life, we can actually find this kind of euphoric joy even when the circumstances don't seem to allow it. Most of us know how to find happiness in thrilling and fun moments, but how do we find something deeper that can lead to joy in the not-so-thrilling and not-so-fun moments? How can we avoid faking happiness in bad circumstances but actually experiencing joy during the challenging times on the road trip of our lives? How can we turn the road trip into a joy ride? We're going to find out together by learning from Paul and a letter he wrote called Philippians.

### II. Tension

#### A. *Optional Illustration: Pleasantville*

1. The movie *Pleasantville* is about a teenage brother and sister who get pulled into a black-and-white 1950s sitcom. These siblings enter a world where everything seems perfect on the surface. But they begin to realize that living in a world without color is not really living at all. As the people in town begin to recognize and face challenges, color comes to Pleasantville, and real life blooms.
  - a) **NOTE: You may choose to show pictures of a short clip from *Pleasantville* to help students who haven't seen this movie identify with this picture.**
- B. In this first session, we're going to get to know a guy whose life went from black and white to full color once he encountered Jesus. Saul was a member of the religious aristocracy and an expert on religious law, and it looked on the surface as though he was living the good life. But once Saul encountered Jesus Christ, his life flashed into full color. He even got a new name, Paul. After this encounter, Paul became a missionary and shared the Gospel in different places. He encountered persecution, harsh conditions, and even imprisonment, but somehow he kept an unexpected attitude of joy, even in the midst of crazy circumstances.
- C. On one of his missionary road trips, Paul had a night-time vision of a Macedonian man calling him to come and help them. So Paul headed to Macedonia, which is the area in and around modern-day Greece. The leading city in Macedonia was Philippi. It was in a strategic location, and even more importantly, a Roman colony, which made it an influential place. The people who lived in Philippi had the privileges of Roman life and were loyal to Roman government and customs. In Philippi, Paul introduced the Gospel into Europe for the very first time.
- D. The new church that Paul planted in Philippi faced the challenge of figuring out how to be unified in the middle of a culture with barriers between classes. Even more, the Philippians faced the challenge of how to keep joy in the midst of persecution from a society that was so against their beliefs. Years later, after Paul made a second visit to Philippi, Paul ended up under house arrest for preaching the Gospel. As he awaited his sentence, which could've been the death penalty, Paul wasn't despondent or angry. Instead, Paul demonstrated a joy that didn't seem to mesh with his circumstances. It was a divine, euphoric, joy – the joy of Christ in the midst of trial and persecution.

### III. Scripture

#### A. Read PHILIPPIANS 1:12-24

1. *"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment."*



*What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account."*

- B. Paul's colorful life of following Jesus led him to a point where he was under house arrest and possibly facing the death penalty. So it wouldn't be surprising to find a letter from Paul full of disappointment, fear, or anger. Think about it...he had been a faithful servant of God, literally devoting everything he had to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. But now he faced possible execution, after having been mocked, beaten, and arrested in many of the places he ministered. It would be natural under these circumstances to ask the question, "Why me?" But Paul's full-color faith led him to see past his circumstances. Instead, as Paul wrote to his friends in Philippi, we discover he had an attitude of joy and thankfulness.
- C. DESPITE HIS CIRCUMSTANCES, PAUL REJOICED. This doesn't seem to make sense on the surface, because Paul's circumstances were nothing to rejoice about. But Paul had deep joy – the kind of euphoric joy that seemed inappropriate to his life situation because it wasn't caused by his life situation. INSTEAD, HIS JOY CAME FROM GOD. Here's the key to Paul's joy: Paul wasn't looking at God through his broken circumstances. Instead, Paul saw his circumstances through his God. This was the seed of euphoric joy in Paul's life. And it can be in ours as well.

### IV. Application

- A. As I said at the beginning of our time together, we're on a journey as well. Our lives lead us up, down, and all around through a variety of circumstances. And just like Paul, we have a choice to make. When we're in the midst of tough circumstances that wound or frighten or anger us, we have to decide how we're going to approach that circumstance. As with Paul, HOW WE SEE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WE LEARN TO LIVE WITH JOY. So how do you see it?
- B. **Optional Illustration: Broken Glass**
  - 1. **NOTE: Bring in two pieces of glass. One should be a whole, clear piece; the other should be cracked and broken. Also bring in an object that you can move around. This could be something as simple as a vase of flowers. At the appropriate moments in the description below, hold up each piece of glass and look through it to a different side of the vase.**
  - 2. When we encounter circumstances that are downright discouraging and intimidating, it can be very easy to feel like our lives are broken beyond repair and that our circumstances will win. This way of seeing things is basically looking at your life through your circumstances. So if this vase of flowers is my life, and I look at it through the broken glass of my circumstances (**Hold up the broken**

*glass to view the vase through the brokenness*), all I see is a terminally broken image. Now take it a step further: If I look at God through the broken glass of my circumstances, then I see a broken, inadequate God.

3. But that's not the only way to see it. What if I look through this clear glass? ***(Now hold up the unbroken glass from the other side of the vase and look through it)*** When I look at life from a perspective that trusts God is in control and that He loves me, then I don't see a life that's broken beyond repair because I see a whole, complete, loving God. When I view my circumstances through God, I may still see challenging circumstances. I'll still have to acknowledge that I do live in a broken world. But I don't see a broken God, and because of that, I see a life that can again be whole as well. So SEEING MY CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH GOD AND HIS CHARACTER ENABLES ME TO LIVE IN JOY.
- C. It all comes down to how we see it. Are we going to live at the mercy of our circumstances? If we do, we're soon going to come to believe that life is broken because our circumstances will often be broken. As a result, our level of joy will depend on our circumstances. On top of that, because we're seeing life through our cracked circumstances, we will develop a faulty view of God and of life, and we'll miss out on euphoric joy.
- D. But if we start with a true lens – the character of God – it changes the way we see our circumstances. Through God's character, we will see our circumstances as what they are: TEMPORARY PARTS OF THE ROAD TRIP OF OUR LIFE. Therefore, our level of joy won't depend on our circumstances because we see it clearly through the deeper and never-changing character of God.

### V. Gospel

- A. Maybe your circumstances seem really broken, cracked, and beyond repair right now. Maybe that's how you walked into this room. Things might not be turning out the way you expected, life has given you more than your fair share of challenges, and you're just wishing that you could find that kind of euphoric joy that stays with you through the good and the bad. Right now, you can start your relationship with Jesus so that you can see your life and the whole world around you through a brand new lens.
- B. The reason why the world around us is so broken and messed up is something called sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God or goes against His commands and will for our lives. And in the beginning, God created the whole universe perfectly and in a perfect relationship with Himself. But because of Adam and Eve, the first two humans, sinning against God, that relationship was broken. Now all of humanity is separated from God, and the world is fallen and broken. Thankfully though, God doesn't want to leave us there. He desires a relationship with us no matter how badly we've messed up, how far gone we think we are, or how broken our lives get to be. And that's why He sent Jesus.
- C. Jesus came to live the perfect, sinless life that was required to fix humanity's relationship with God. Something that none of us, or anyone else in the history of the world, could ever do. He performed miracles, preached good news to the oppressed, and told people about the coming Kingdom of God. However, people didn't like Jesus' messages or the

## **Euphoric Sermon Series | Session 1: See It**

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things He said were true. So He was crucified and died an extremely painful death, but that was God's plan all along! Jesus was sent so that He could die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins!

- D. And the best part is that Jesus didn't stay in the grave! Three days later, He rose from the grave and was resurrected back to life. Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the powers of sin and death are forever defeated. Thanks to Jesus, we can be reconnected with God and obtain eternal life. All we have to do now is repent of (ask forgiveness for/turn away from) our sins (the things we do that go against God's will and commands) and believe that Jesus is truly the Savior we desperately need.
- E. This is how we gain access to that euphoric joy we've been talking about. When we realize that Jesus suffered the worst punishment of all so that we could be completely restored and forgiven, we begin to experience the joy that comes from knowing nothing in this world, not even the worst circumstances, can take that away.

### **VI. Conclusion**

- A. So, are you going to see God through your circumstances, or are you going to see your circumstances through God? Like Paul, you can start with your relationship with Jesus and see your life and circumstances through that lens. And as you see it that way, you'll find that euphoric joy is real and completely available no matter what your circumstances may be. So the last question of the day is this: How do you see it?
- B. Let's pray.

## **Euphoric Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: See It**

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**Euphoric Series Overview** | Joy. It's a good word. It's a happy word. It's a word that's often confused with happiness. Happiness is something we all know about and are looking for. We drive ourselves to all kinds of extremes in the name of happiness. But happiness isn't joy. Happiness relies on what we can see and how we feel, which means that happiness often seems just out of reach. Then there's joy. Joy is what we're promised in the Bible. It's not dependent on circumstances or emotions but instead based in something real, solid, and lasting. Joy is based in Christ, so it endures through situations and occasions, no matter how scary, hurtful, or challenging they are. We're calling this *euphoric* joy.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | Paul's journey from a black-and-white life to a full-color life did not happen without challenges. But the key to Paul's joy, especially when he faced a challenging circumstance, was how he chose to see it. And like Paul, we can find euphoric joy when we see our circumstances through God instead of the other way around.

**Key Takeaway** | Seeing my circumstances through God and His character enables me to live in joy.

**Scripture Focus** | Philippians 1:12-24

### **Euphoric | Session 1 Discussion Questions**

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You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

#### **Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking**

1. If you were in a sitcom, what would it be about? What would you call it?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Philippians 1:12-24. What does this teach you about God? What does this teach you about yourself?
2. In your own words, define euphoric joy. Give an example. What's the difference between joy and happiness? Why is it important to keep this difference in mind?
3. Why do you think Paul stressed that he was rejoicing in the midst of his circumstances? How does his example challenge the way you see your circumstances and how you react to them?
4. What makes it tempting to see God through your broken circumstances? Why do you think it's easy to have your view of God change based on your life situation?
5. What would it take for you to see your circumstances through a faithful and loving God? How do you think it would change the way you react to the things that go on around you?
6. What's holding you back from trusting God when your circumstances aren't as you expected them to be? What does God become to you in those moments? Why do you think that is?
7. What are some ways that you can personally trust God more this week? How can you view your circumstances through God instead of the other way around? How do you think you can encourage others to do the same thing?