

Hope Presbyterian Church
Adult Faith Formation Sermon-Based Bible Study

September 13, 2026

"Joy" - #3 in the series *God on Film*

Scripture Texts (CEB)
John 15:9-11, John 16:22



1. In the 2015 Disney animated film *Inside Out*, 11-year-old Riley Andersen grapples with the emotional impact of moving with her family from Minnesota to San Francisco, a new place where she knows no one. Encountering the emotions of Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger - colorfully animated characters in the story - Riley learns an important lesson about Joy and Sadness.
 - Have you ever experienced a sadness that seemed to eclipse any possibility of experiencing joy again?
 - How did you navigate that difficult experience?
2. **Read John 15:9.**

Although they may not have fully understood what Jesus' approaching death would mean, the disciples listened as he reminded them of His love for them, regardless of what they might experience.

 - How might the disciples have understood Jesus saying he loved them in the same way God the Father loved him?
 - What does it mean to "remain" in someone's love, even when they are no longer with us?
3. **Read John 15:10.**

Not to be confused with the Old Testament Ten Commandments, Jesus urges the disciples to "keep my commandments."

 - To what commandments or teachings would he have been referring?
 - What teachings from your father or other important family member have you sought to follow, and why are they important even now?
4. **Read John 15:11 and John 16:22.**
 - How would speaking to the disciples in this way (John 15:11) have made Jesus' joy in them "complete"?
 - Why might the disciples have struggled to remain in Jesus' love, knowing the sorrow they would experience upon his death (John 16:22)?
5. *Inside Out* ends with a touching scene in which Riley tells her parents that, as much as she has tried to be joyful in her new home, she was sad - missing her old friends and playing on her hockey team. Instead of trying to "talk away" her sadness, they held Riley close, and told her they understood and would always love her in sadness and in joy.
 - Have you ever experienced a time when sadness and joy occupied the same space? What happened?
6. How can we pray for you?