



**Face the Issue:**

We wrapped up our series, Rerouting, this week. It has been good to take an honest look at how we can many times get off track and how we can reprogram our lives to get back to where we need to be.

This week Jeremy pointed out four things that we can do to reroute our lives when we find that we are not where we should be. One of them was “Enjoy the Journey”

Many times, especially here in the Bible Belt, we as Christians can get the feeling that we are not supposed to enjoy anything. We can get the feeling that Christians are supposed to act or be anything but joyful.

*Can Christians have fun? Or does it seem like non-Christians have more fun? Where do you find your greatest opportunities for laughter and happiness?*

*Author Leslie Weatherhead once wrote: “The opposite of joy is not sorrow. It is unbelief”. What do you think he meant by that? Would you agree or disagree?*

**Into the Word:**

**Read Genesis 18:9–15.**

Sarah overheard a conversation between her husband Abraham and three messengers that God had sent to him. The messengers said that Sarah would bear a son to Abraham, even though they were well up in years. So, naturally, she got a good laugh out of this promise.

When God wanted to know why Abraham’s wife laughed at this promise, Sarah denied having laughed. She was likely afraid of offending God. But God told her that she did, in fact, laugh. Sarah’s laughter here was a sign of unbelief. It seemed totally impossible for her to have a baby at her age. No matter if the promise came from God. But God’s response was: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

**Now read Genesis 21:1-7**

Now we find Sarah filled with a different type of laughter.

*What do you think was different about this laughter than the first one?*

*Sarah was very specific about the source of her laughter this time. She even says this laughter will spread to others. How does God as a source of laughter differ from the way many in the world view God?*

*What is your reaction when others seem to laugh at your faith? Have you ever considered a “holy laughter” of joy at the wonder of what God has done to be a better response than trying to rationally explain or go on a counter attack?*

## **Apply The Word**

*What do you think your tendency is: to take your life and faith too seriously, or to kid around too much of the time?*

*If you're too light-hearted about your faith, why do you act in this way?*

*If you're too serious, what would help you move in the direction of not taking yourself and your faith too seriously?*

*Think about what it is that, by the grace of God, you should celebrate. Is this not reason for throwing a party? Perhaps your class might even want to plan a party to celebrate God's great love and mercy and goodness for you. What would such a party look like? Who would you invite? What would you do at this party? Could this party even be a form of worship and praise to God for all he has done for you? Party hard and laugh it up!*