

Welcome To The Party
Delighting in The Present

Small Group Questions:

1. What would be your perfect party? Think about people, places, emotions, and activities. Share your thoughts with the group.
 2. Now, read all the passages from John that were included in the message. What do we learn about joy, relationship, Trinity, community, and evangelism from these passages? Make a list with your group.
 3. How do these realities connect to the idea of a party? Read the sermon points for some help.
 4. Why did the older brother refuse the party? How might you be refusing the party?
 5. What would it look like to increase our joy at SMCC?
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Everyone is **WELCOME** to the party.

John 14:8-17 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." **9** Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** Don't you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me**? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. **15** "If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 15:9-13 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** **I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.** **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 17:13-21 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them... **20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** **that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

Perichoresis: a going around

Each are in each, and all in each, and each in all, and all are one. - Augustine

Union with a Trinitarian God is about sharing in a joy-filled community; it's a **PARTY**.

Luke 15:24b-32 *So they began to celebrate. 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

How am I refusing to enter the party?

BOTTOM LINE: Let's continue to show **UTAH** the joy-filled community of our God.