

God With You

Advent 2020

JOY Luke 1

Message Reflection Guide

Read Luke 2:10-11 A bit of joy will do. But “great joy”? Is it almost too much to hope for? Where did all the Christmas joy go? How did things get so complicated? So rushed? So squeezed and cluttered? It doesn't have to be that way. We can choose to step aside—step into a quieter moment—and read angels' words that came on that night that changed the world.

Real joy is never something that originates from within, it has to come to us from without. Trying to find joy by getting it out of yourself is like believing a river can flow uphill. Maybe that's one of the reasons why so many have a hard time finding joy at Christmas. Bite into a Christmas cookie, and you might enjoy it. Open a shiny package and you might enjoy what you find inside. But joy itself—in its true and pure form—is so much more than enjoyment. Joy is the startling realization that God really has claimed territory in this world. He's taken back what belongs to him. And then joy is a thirst that doesn't want to be quenched; a hunger that knows it will go on and on. It's a good thing, to never get enough of God.

Conversation Starter

What are some “Christmas Traditions” in your family?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read Luke 1

Pastor Jason said: “God is with you because He wants to give you joy. True spiritual joy can only be found in Him.” Why do you think Zechariah and Elizabeth experienced such joy from God? How do you feel about Gabriel silencing Zechariah because of his doubt?

Joy is found in faithfulness. How do you define faithfulness? In what ways do you find it challenging to remain faithful in your relationship with God?

Joy is found in obedience. Mary was an incredible example of obedience. How would you respond to having such important plans turned upside down?

Joy is found in the Holy Spirit. What experience in the past have you had with gifts of the Holy Spirit? How open are you to growing in the practice of spiritual gifts?

Joy is found in the miraculous. Have you experienced a miraculous event in your life or family history? Are you in need of a miracle, if so what is your need?

Making It Real

What brings you joy? Are there earthly sources of joy that are incompatible with your eternal joy? How can you share the joy of Christ with someone during this Christmas season?