



A Better King
Advent 2020

WEEK 3: THE KING OF JOY

Read the text: Isaiah 9:2-4

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Jesus, the Light of the world, came to bring light into the darkness and joy to our gloom, fulfilling God's promise that the people who walked in darkness would see a great light. True joy comes when we know that someone is present with us, even in the midst of pain and sadness. Jesus restored our joy by bringing the light of His presence to be with us in the midst of the darkness, driving the darkness away. Jesus came to make His home with us. And after He ascended, He sent His Spirit to dwell in us. We're not alone! During these dark winter nights, and what feels like a dark year, we can still be filled with joy because God is with us.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. What part of the darkness in your life or story do you need to face so that you can be moved to hope for God to come and act? If you're willing, share about that with your group. Would you be willing to invite this group to face this darkness with you? What would that look like?
2. Do you believe God is happy to be with you this Christmas? If not, why do you think that is? Or, if you do, why are you sure?
3. Can you share with each other a time when you felt a tangible joy because you knew God was happy to be with you? Be as specific as possible.
4. What tangible next step do you want to take to cultivate joy in your life? Practice Gratitude, Find Community, or Practice God's Presence? How can you support each other in this next step?
5. Take some time to pray together. Thank God for His presence with you and ask for His help as you face the darkness in your life, knowing you are not alone.