

Series: The Feelings of Christmas

Title: The Feelings of Christmas: JOY

Text: Luke 2:10 & various

Breaking the Ice:

OPTION # 1 – What are emotions one or two emotions that you especially experience at Christmas?

OPTION # 2 – What did you most look forward to at Christmas as a kid?

Discussion/Study:

1. Read Luke 1:44, Luke 2:10 and Matthew 2:10 – The joy that Jesus brings to His people is a major theme of his coming. We see this in the announcement to the angels (Luke 2:10), in the response of the magi (Matthew 2:10), and even in the reaction of John the Baptist in the womb (Luke 1:44). How does the good news of Jesus coming (and coming again) bring you joy?
2. Read the Matthew 13:44 – In the parable of the treasure hidden in the field, we see that the joy of knowing Christ is better than any other joy or good thing in life. What are some things you treasure in your own life, and how is the joy of knowing Christ even greater than the joy of those things? Why is it important to have these joys in the proper order of priority?
3. Read Matthew 15:7 and 10 – One the most amazing truths in Scripture is that we not only experience joy in finding Jesus but he experiences joy in finding us. What does it mean to you that Jesus celebrates his seeking and finding you? Why is it so significant that Jesus not only “likes” you, or tolerates you, but loves you and rejoices over you?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1-2, Luke 6:22-23, James 1:2, and 2 Corinthians 8:2 – The joy that Jesus gives us is not only better than every other good thing in life, but also makes every other bad thing bearable. We see this modeled in Jesus who endured the cross, despising its shame, for the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:1-2). What can we learn from Jesus’ example about how the joy of God makes even the hard things in life bearable?
5. What causes you to lose your JOY? Why do you think is a joy stealer for you?
6. READ 1 John 1:4; 2 John 12; 3 John 4; 1 Thess. 2:20; 2 Timothy 1:11 – The letters of the apostle Paul and John indicate that our joy of knowing Christ is best experienced when it is shared. How does having other people share the joy of knowing Christ “complete” our joy? If you have ever had the opportunity of having someone you know become a Christian, what was your emotional response to their new faith?

7. EXERCISE: Make a quick list of those you know and love, that don't know and love Jesus. What are some ways that you could invite them to discover the gospel during this advent season?

ADDITIONAL VERSES:

"And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete" – 1 John 1:4, ESV

"Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete," – 2 John 12, ESV

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" – 3 John 4

"For you are our glory and joy" – 1 Thessalonians 2:20

"As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy" – 2 Timothy 1:4

"...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord of one mind" – Philippians 2:2, ESV

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope," – Romans 15:13

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy." – JUDE 24