

Advent 2021
Be Filled With Joy!
Sunday, December 12, 2021

Luke 2: 8-14 NIV

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**” ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

1. Knowing

Hebrews 12:2 fix our eyes on Jesus, for the joy set before Him He endured the cross.

Psalms 30:5 Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning.

John 16:22 I will see you again, you will rejoice, no one will take away your joy.

2 Corinthians 4:17 Our momentary troubles are achieving for us eternal glory.

2. Connection to the Divine

John 15:11 I have told you this so my joy may be in you.

Psalms 16:11 You fill me with joy in Your presence.

Psalms 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

3. Seeking and Receiving

Jeremiah 15:16 I devoured Your words; they are my joy and my heart's delight.

Psalms 37:4 Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desires.

John 16:24 Ask in My name and you will receive. Your joy will be complete.

Romans 14:17 The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Spirit.

Conclusion: Let us not be indifferent to Jesus and the joy we have in Him. Let us seek Him and receive by faith the fullness of joy He desires to fill our hearts with. Let us live knowing the joy of the Lord as our strength,

for that is why He came!

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Be Filled With Joy!
Week of December 12– December 18, 2021

Ice Breaker: How would you define the joy of the Lord? Do you live aware of His joy in you or is your joy connected to your circumstances?

Read Luke 2: 8-14 NIV.

1. Who did the angel appear to? (vs. 8-9)
2. What did the angel reveal? (v. 10-11)
3. Of all the people to reveal Jesus' arrival, why would some local shepherds be first to receive such incredible news?
4. What is the tone of the message? (v.10)
5. What does the birth of Jesus cause for all people? (v.10)
6. Who joins the angel after he shares this message? What do they do? (vs. 13-14)
7. Would you say they were joyful in this moment?
8. What do you believe God wants all to know as we recount the arrival of Jesus here on earth? What is the main feeling introduced?
9. Great joy is caused simply in the birth of Jesus. Do we need anything else to make us joyful in our days, *or is His presence sufficient?*
10. Read Hebrews 12:2. Can we have joy amid our great trials? What did Jesus focus on while He went to the cross? How do we endure?
11. Read Psalm 30:5. What is the promise? How does this help in our sorrow?
12. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17. Is there purpose in our troubles? What do we focus on then?
13. Read John 15:8-11. How is our joy complete?
14. Read Psalm 16:11. What are we filled with? How do we recognize this?
15. What if we don't feel joy in our lives? How do we get it back? Read Psalm 51.12.
16. Read Jeremiah 15:16. What is the lesson? What is the position of our heart? What becomes our treasure?
17. Read Psalm 37:4. What is the promise if we delight in the Lord?
18. Read Romans 14:17. What makes up the Kingdom of God? What does God desire for His people? Where do we find these things?

Point to ponder: Jesus came down from glory to enter this world and bring with Him unspeakable joy. He gifts us with this joy as we believe in Him and no one can take that joy from us. Let us honor our Savior by receiving His gift of everlasting joy. This is the message from the angel of the Lord—“Good News that causes great joy for all people!”