

Life Group Discussion Material - Sunday, December 13th Message

Joy Manifested: Luke 1 & 2

Advent Week #3: Joy

1. In order to experience godly joy, you must first be submissive to the Lord. Why is submitting to God's will a crucial first step in experiencing joy?
2. Consider Mary in Luke 1:39-46. She believed what the angel had spoken to her and it actually caused her to have joy. How is your joy strengthened by your faith?
3. Do you typically find joy in the end result or do you find it while waiting in anticipation of what God is going to do? How are hope, faith, and joy related?
4. Read Luke 1:46-55. How was Mary's joy manifested? What was the basis of her joy?
5. Has your joy in the Lord ever been a witness to others? For example, have you ever been able to tell someone why you are so full of joy, giving the credit for your joy to Jesus Christ? If not, why not?
6. Joy, much like peace, is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This means that you have the ability to tap into godly joy 24/7 if you are a born-again believer. Rate yourself on how much joy you walk-in day-to-day on a scale of 1-10. Discuss this as a group.
7. What holds you back from experiencing joy? Do you focus on the negative? Do you give in to despair?
8. Recognizing God at work is one way to experience joy. How can this thought process help you change your despair into joy when trial or hardship comes?
9. Sing or recite the following Christmas hymn together

120 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . . Psa. 98:4

Isaac Watts, 1719
Based on Psalm 98

ANTIOCH C.M.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. And
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

JESUS CHRIST