

Week Three - Joy

Read Luke 2:10-11

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Whenever I hear the word "joy", I start singing *Joy to the World*. Do you do the same thing? (Just me? Ok...). I love to sing the Go Fish Guys version of this song with my church kids. The first part of the song says, "I've got the J-O-Y." And when you sing that part, you also have to use your arms to spell it out. So right now in my mind, I am singing this song and doing the motions! Take a minute right now and sing the first verse of *Joy to the World* with your family.

Do you have joy? No, I'm not talking about happiness. Happiness comes from the world. I am talking about true joy. The joy that comes from the One who brings Joy to us and who brought Joy into this world. I'm talking about the joy of the Lord.

On the night that Jesus was born, the angels appeared to the shepherds and said: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

The angels came to deliver the most wonderful news. They let the shepherds know that Joy had come into the world. He was here! He had been born! And that was definitely a joyful thing!

There is one keyword that I want to focus on in this passage from Luke 2. The angels said this Joy was for ALL people. They didn't tell the shepherds this news so they could keep it quiet. They didn't tell the shepherds not to tell anyone else. They said it was good news of great joy for all people.

When you have the true joy of Jesus, which means you know Him as your Savior and you walk closely with Him, then you cannot help but spread His joy to others. His joy will be so visible in you and others will see it. It will spill from your mouth. It will be heard through

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the words you speak. It will be seen in your actions. It will be seen all over your face. It is hard to contain the joy of the Lord. Our job as Christians is to spread this joy. We are to share the name of Jesus with others. We aren't to bottle up His joy and save it for ourselves. We are to go out and make His name known. Shout it from the mountaintops. Sing it from the rooftops. Write about it. Go...and tell others the good news of Jesus Christ! Today, let the light of Joy shine in your life.

Light the Candle

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Have one person in your family take a lighter and light the two purple candles of Hope and Peace. Then light the pink candle, which represents Joy.



Discuss

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What is something that brings you joy?

Closing prayer

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*Giver of Joy, help us to share Your joy with others. Make Your joy so visible in our lives that others will come to know You through us. Remind us continually that Your joy is for everyone and give us the courage to share Your name.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*