



Advent: Joy!

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 8-11

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.

WARM UP

- What thoughts or ideas stood out to you from the message?
- To start the sermon, Pastor Todd told a pretty embarrassing story about how he was once locked out of his house during a particularly *desperate* time. Now’s your turn. Tell your story – have you ever been locked out of your house, car, business, or church. How did you feel? What did you do? Who helped you?

(Below you will find the main points of this week’s sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Believe it or not, you have access to joy through Jesus.

Verses: Luke 2: 8-11, Romans 5:1-2

- Try to put yourself in the place of the shepherds. What thoughts, feelings, emotions, or even objections do you think they must have been experiencing during and after the angels announcement?
- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is “good news that will cause great joy for all the people”? What is good about the news? What

is great about the joy? What is the significance of the angel saying that the joy was for ALL people?

- During what times in your life has it been difficult for you to remember that you have access to joy? Why?

Thought # 2 – Joy can be a tricky thing. Sometimes we forget that we have access to it.

Verses: Luke 2: 8-11, Romans 5:1-2a

- Pastor Todd shared, “One of the things I’ve learned is that my mind can play tricks on me. My thoughts, feelings, emotions, and desires can and will be dishonest. I have to stay super close to God’s truth or I can get into some tricky situations.”
 - In what ways have you found that your mind, feelings, emotions, and desires lie to you? What lies do they speak? What is the truth?
 - Tell your story: Tell of a time in your life when you had to “respeak” truth to yourself (perhaps even over and over again) in order to embrace what the Lord said was true about you.
- Read Romans 5:1-2. In your opinion, how does Jesus bring joy and peace to people? How have you experienced His joy and peace?

Thought #3 – Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we have access to God through Jesus, the joy who was given to all people.

Verses: Luke 2: 8-11, Matthew 27: 51, Hebrews 3: 14-16

- When Jesus died, the veil (curtain) in the temple was torn. What was the significance of this? Knowing that this happened at the moment of Jesus death, what can assume about the access we have to God? Read Hebrews 3:14-16 for help.
- Is it easy for you to approach God with confidence? Why or why not? Why do you think we are encouraged to approach God’s throne with confidence?

