



ADVENT

Joy

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "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.*

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-14

*"The major mark of justified believers is joy,
especially joy in God himself."*

John Stott

"The Christian should be an alleluia from head to foot."

St. Augustine

"The real problem with happiness is neither its pursuers nor their books; it's happiness itself. Happiness is like beauty: part of its glory lies in its transience. To hold happiness is to hold the understanding that the world passes away from us, that the petals fall and the beloved dies."

No amount of mockery, no amount of fashionable scowling will keep any of us from knowing and savoring the pleasure of the sun on our faces or save us from the adult understanding that it cannot last forever."

Amy Bloom

"But the angel said to them, "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

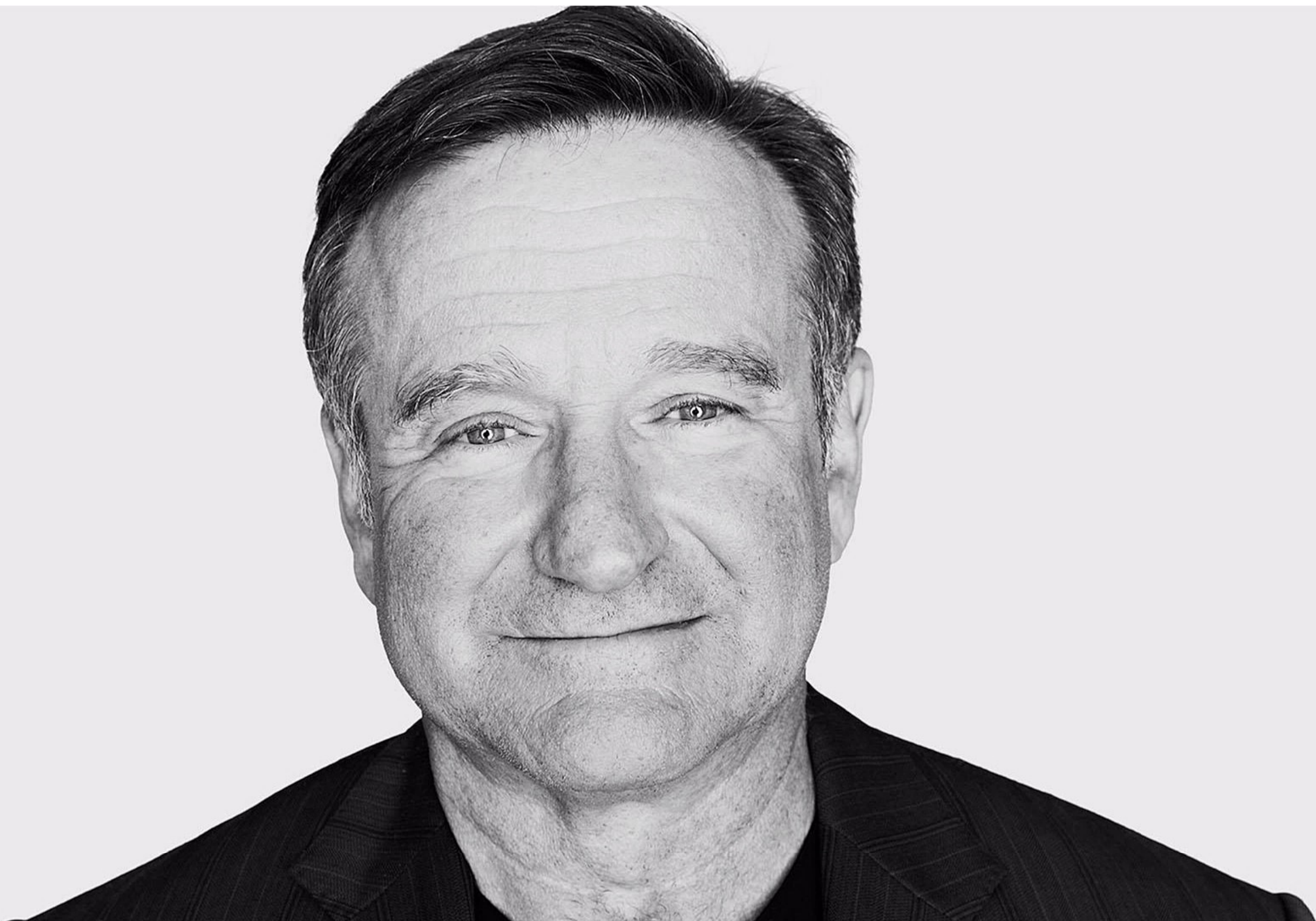
“Restore to me the joy of your salvation.”

Psalm 51:12

1) Joy is not a personality type.

2) Joy is not circumstantial.

3) Joy is not positivity/optimism.



"Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."

2 Corinthians 6:10 (ESV)

"Our hearts ache, but we always have joy."

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NLT)

4) Joy isn't merely an emotion.

Joy:

Joy is a settled assurance, rooted in the gospel, that God is with us—and that everything sad will one day come untrue.

**Joy is rooted in the gospel...
so we preach the gospel to ourselves.**

Eucatastrophe: *"the sudden happy turn in a story which pierces you with a joy that brings tears."*

"The birth of Christ is the eucatastrophe of human history."

J.R.R Tolkien

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Isaiah 9:2

“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“Most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself.”

Martin Lloyd Jones

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”

Psalm 42:5

"The gospel is so foolish (according to my natural wisdom), so scandalous (according to my conscience), and so unbelievable (according to my timid heart), that it is a daily battle to believe the full scope of it as I should. There is simply no other way to compete with the forebodings of my conscience, the condemnings of my heart, and the lies of the world and the Devil than to overwhelm such things with the daily rehearsing of the gospel."

Milton Vincent

Joy is fueled in God's presence...
so we spend *a lot* of time with Jesus.

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 16:11

*"I have told you these things so that my joy may
be in you and your joy may be complete."*

John 15:11

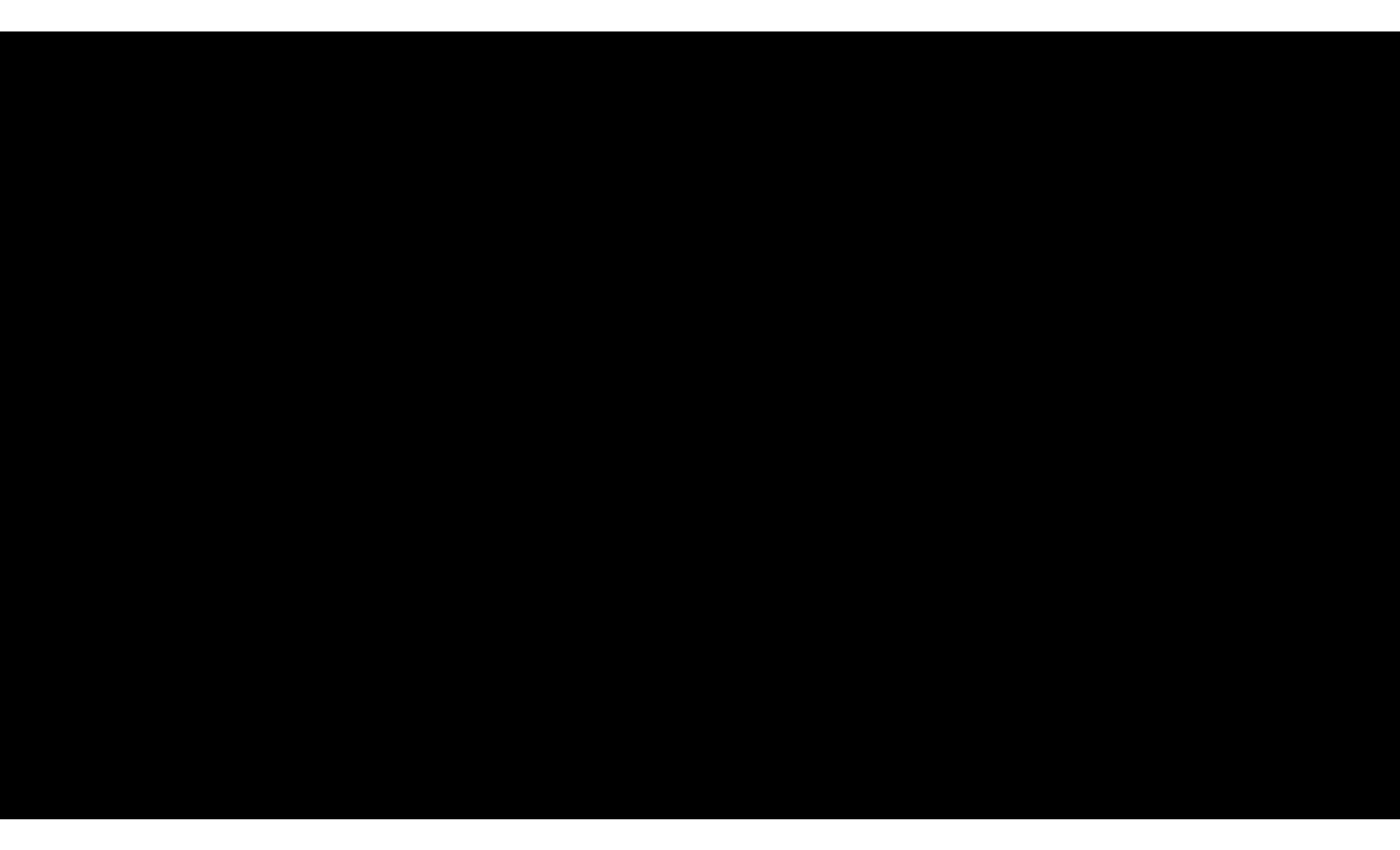
"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:23

Joy is experienced in God's family...
so we commit to deep relationships.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Acts 2:46-47



"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9