



Week 1- “Joy In The Midst Of Suffering”

As you read through the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke we discover that an overarching theme is Joy. It makes sense that this is the theme because Christianity teaches that Jesus entered the world to love it, serve it, and save it. In this week’s message we begin by looking at the birth of John the Baptist because his birth elicits joy in the midst of pain and suffering.

Read Luke 1:5-25

1. How would you answer the question: “What voices am I listening to?”
2. Do you have any space for silence in your life to allow the good news of great joy?
3. If not, why do you think that is?
4. What do you think it practically looks like to create space for silence in your life?

What did John do that brought a joy deep enough to overcome the reality of real suffering? He pointed to Christ.

5. How can remembering Christ and what He did on the cross help you hear God and experience real joy and peace in this broken world?
6. What do you think it practically looks like to point back to Christ and the cross?
7. How can this group help you discover on a deeper level what Christ did for you on the cross and how it can help you experience real joy no matter the circumstances?

Christmas promises a Joy that is big enough and strong enough to be real in the pain and suffering of this broken world. Do we find enough silence in our lives to hear the Good News of Great Joy? Or does it get lost in all our distractions, or all the other things we look to find that Joy in? Will you take the step this week to evaluate what voices you are listening to and find space to sit in the silence with God and remember what He has done for you?