#### All In with Jordan Easley

#### Waiting with Joy

Advent | Week 2 | Luke 2:10, 15-20

## **INTRODUCTION NOTES** If your joy comes from a thing, you'll always need more of that thing to maintain your joy. But that's not the way joy was designed to work. God never said that our joy should be contingent on our circumstances. He said our joy comes from our Savior. And that doesn't mean things are always going to go our way. It doesn't mean we won't experience trials and difficulties along the way. But the truth is that you can be sad on the surface while maintaining joy in your spirit because, ultimately, our joy doesn't come from our circumstances. It comes from Jesus. So, if you're reading this today and you'd say, "When times are good, I am good. When times are bad, I am bad," you're missing Joy comes from the Lord, and we see that joy delivered by God and portrayed in the Christmas story in Luke chapter 2. **KEY POINTS** 1. The Shepherds After the angel appeared to these guys in the field and scared them to death, the angel told them where Jesus was born, what he was wearing, and where he was lying. In other words, the angel was saying, "The Son of God is here, and don't just take my word for it. Go see for yourself!" Now, when this happened, I can just imagine the doubts that popped up in their minds. These guys were some of the lowest people on the totem pole when it came to education or social status, and I'm sure they were thinking, "There's no way that just happened. There's no way this can be real!" But despite all their doubts, the Bible says they packed up, made the journey, and wanted to see the Savior with their own eyes. What started as doubt soon turned to belief, and the cause of their transformation was simply being exposed to the truth. They saw Jesus, and they met Jesus! The truth turned doubt into faith and because they had faith to go to Jesus, they got to experience a brand new JOY they had never experienced before.

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# **NOTES** 2. Simeon and Anna We know that Simeon and Anna were serving in the temple as this story was unfolding... and the Bible portrays both of them as godly people. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that before He died, He would see the Messiah. And Simeon had been holding onto that promise and waiting for that day. God had made him a promise, and the day finally came when the promise was fulfilled. The Bible says that in that moment, "Simeon took him [Jesus] up in his arms & praised God." Once again, the joy that came from Jesus caused this man to praise God. Simeon and Anna both experienced fulfillment and joy when they met Jesus, and as a result of their joy, they praised Him, worshipped Him, and shared Him with others.

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#### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

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2. When was a time you had doubts about a promise from God, but God still kept His Word? What did you learn from that situation?

3.	What is one practical step you can take this week to focus on the joy that comes from the Lord rather than the state of your circumstances?

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