

# FINDING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER 13, 2020

### I. JOY COMES FROM JESUS.

You can search for joy all season, but joy is only found in Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 2:10 (NIV)** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

**Matthew 2:10 (ESV)** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

**Matthew 2:10 (CSB)** When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy.

How can I be joyful this Christmas?

### II. 6 KEYS TO A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

#### 1. *Be Intentional*

**Matthew 2:1-2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**A. Choose the journey of joy.**

**B. Choose to leave some things behind to find joy.**

**C. You will never stumble into joy.**

#### 2. *Be Yourself*

**Matthew 2:3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

**A. There is joy in the journey God has called you to.**

**B. Do not let others define your joy.**

**Psalms 30:11-12** You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

### ***3. Be Flexible***

**Matthew 2:7-10** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

**A. Joy will not always be found where you expected.**

**B. Joy will not always look like you expected.**

**C. Joy will not always require what you expected.**

- Embrace the unexpected.

**Nehemiah 8:10** Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

- Unrealistic expectations squeeze out room for joy.

### ***4. Be Humble***

**Matthew 2:11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**A. Pride and joy are incompatible.**

**James 4:6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

**B. Humility is the thermostat that controls the temperature of our lives.**

**Hebrews 12:2-3** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### ***5. Be A Worshipper***

**Matthew 2:11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**Psalms 16:9-10** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

**A. Worship can restore my confidence to fill me with joy.**

**Psalms 16:11** You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**B. Worship can recalibrate my life to fill me with joy.**

## ***6. Be Generous***

**Matthew 2:11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**A. Be generous with what you have.**

**B. Be generous with who you are.**

**John 15:10-13** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**C. Where there is not love, there will not be joy.**

**Matthew 2:10 (CSB)** When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy.

**D. You can search for joy all season, but joy is only found in Jesus Christ.**