



**Joy To the World
December 3, 2017**

Luke 2:8-12

1. Joy is Possible

John 16:33

Romans 8:35

Romans 12:15

2. People Seek Joy Wrongly

Luke 12:19

John 12:43

Matthew 10:37

3. Joy Can Never Be Found Directly

Matthew 6:33

4. Joy Requires a Change of Allegiance

Philippians 4:4

Nehemiah 8:10

Home/Group Study

“Look at Jesus. He was perfect, right? And yet he goes around crying all the time. He is always weeping, a man of sorrows. Do you know why? Because he is perfect. Because when you are not all absorbed in yourself, you can feel the sadness of the world. And therefore, what you actually have is that the joy of the Lord happens inside the sorrow. It doesn’t come after the sorrow. It doesn’t come after the uncontrollable weeping. The weeping drives you into the joy, it enhances the joy, and then the joy enables you to actually feel your grief without it sinking you. In other words, you are finally emotionally healthy.”

Timothy Keller; Walking with God through Pain and Suffering

1. What brings you the most joy at Christmas? What steals your joy this time of the year?
2. When it comes to joy and suffering, do you tend to be more of an optimist, pessimist or realist?
3. What are some of the ways you have sought happiness but missed real joy?
4. Do you experience real strength in the joy of the Lord?
5. How can worship fill your heart with joy?