

Advent- Joy
Luke 2:8-17
Study Guide

Big Idea: Christian Joy is the Believers Birthright

1. What do you think is the difference between happiness and joy? Share a time when your circumstances were bad, but you still experienced inner joy. What made the difference for you?

2. Read Luke 2:8. Shepherds were seen as outcasts, not trusted, not part of the religious system of keeping the Sabbath, not around other people a lot; social outcasts. Why do you think God chose to make the angelic announcement of His arrival on earth through shepherds? Discuss. What does it mean to you that God is here for the outcast?

3. Read Luke 2:9-11. Discuss the significance of the announcement that this baby is:

1. Savior- the need for salvation; a term the Jews would have understood.
2. Christ- Messiah, the anointed one; the means of our salvation.
3. Lord- The Messiah is 'kurios', God!

Read Hebrews 1:3 and discuss what it means to you that this baby is God.

4. Read Luke 2:12-14. Here we see such a range of dimension, from a smelly manger to the heavens peeling back to the sound of millions of angels singing of God's glory. Discuss the downward mobility of God, stooping to make us great. Why does that make Him so glorious? How does that inspire you and make you joyful?

5. Read Luke 2:15-17. Notice that the joy of salvation is found in the fact that God has personally revealed Himself to you. It is our birthright to be a people of joy. Share with the group what tends to rob your joy at times. How do you pray through it and come back to the joy of your salvation? Discuss.

Message Slides

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1 John 1:4

"And we are writing these things so that your joy may be **complete**."

A. Shepherds (8)

⁸And in the same **region** there were **shepherds** out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Why shepherds?

1. That's who Jesus loves.

Luke 5:31-32- (Matthew)

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

2. That's who Jesus was.

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B. Savior (9-11)

⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Hebrews 1:3

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

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C. A Sign and a Song (12-14)

¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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D. The Joy of Salvation (15-17)

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “**Let us go** over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which **the Lord has made known to us.**” ¹⁶And they went with **haste** and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, **they made known the saying** that had been told them concerning this child.

1. Knowing

2. Worshipping

3. Sharing

1 John 1:4

“And we are writing these things so that your joy may be **complete.**”

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