

Sunday, December 15, 2024

God's Gifts for Us This Christmas
Joy
Luke 2:8-12

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.

- Kay Warren, Choose Joy

3 Reasons for JOY this Christmas

1. Because God _____ me

2. Because God is _____ me

3. Because God is _____ me

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Study Guide

For the week of December 15, 2024

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

What is your most favorite Christmas tradition of all?

If you could play a part in the Christmas story, which character would you like to be?

What do you think it would have been like to have Jesus as a brother?

How does Jesus bring joy to your life?

How does knowing Jesus change the way you treat others?

Read Isaiah 42:1-7. How well does this prophecy describe Jesus as you know him?

Go back through the prophecy. What does it say about the Father (he is the one speaking)?
What does it say about the Son (he is the Servant)? What does it say about the Holy Spirit (he's
in there too!)?

What is the one part of this prophecy you most need to imitate?

How does this prophecy speak of God's compassion for people? What's wrong? What will God
do about it?

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Read 1 John 4:9-12. How does God sending his Son into the world change what we think about God's love?

John says that because God loved us, we should love one another. What are two or three Bible stories that illustrate God's love? How can you live out what is in these stories?

How does this passage inspire you to Love God and others?

Read Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:1-14. What are some of the ways Jesus is "full of grace and truth"?

How difficult is it for you to think that in Jesus, God really became human? What difference does it make to you to know that God became human?

What does it mean that Jesus is described as a "great light"? In what ways is he like a light?

Sometimes we think the Christian life is about being "spiritual." But in the incarnation, God became part of our physical world. How does the physical nature of the incarnation challenge our notions of what it means to be spiritual?

Read Luke 2:1-20. Put yourselves in the place of the shepherds. Imagine the stillness of a typical night out under the stars and among the sheep. Talk about what it would have been like to experience the sudden appearance of the angels.

Describe the further surprise of finding the newborn Messiah in a feeding trough. The shepherds mention going to "see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." What is something you feel God has "told you" (put on your heart, impressed on you, shown you, etc.) this Christmas season? What are you doing in response?

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What is your experience with “going” and “seeing” what God is all about? Talk about the adventure and the risks of being one who goes and sees.

Discuss the angels' song in verse 14. Why do you think they say what they say? How would you explain their song to someone who might not be sure what it means?

What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs? Consider memorizing Luke 2:10-11.

Pastor Jake Presley