

THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS:

Causes Great Joy!

December 14, 2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Summary.

God's good news is that Jesus has come to bring lasting joy beyond our circumstances. We share in this joy as we hear the good news, trust Jesus, share Him with others, and live our everyday lives with a new focus on God.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Luke 2:8-11 | Ordinary shepherds receive heaven's announcement of "good news that will cause great joy for all the people": a Savior has been born in Bethlehem.

Luke 2:16-20 | The shepherds hurry to find Jesus, then spread the word and return to their fields "glorifying and praising God" for all they had seen and heard.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 | Paul calls believers to "always be joyful," describing joy as a constant posture.

James 2:17 | Faith that never moves into action is "dead"; real belief leads to real steps.

Luke 15:7 | More joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine who don't think they need to.

Psalms 27:13-14 | David trusts he will "see the goodness of the LORD on this earth" and encourages God's people to wait on the Lord with courage and confidence.

Start Talking.

1. When you think of "joy," what comes to mind? How is happiness different?
2. As a child, what made Christmas feel joyful to you? As an adult, how has what brings you joy changed (or not)?
3. At Christmas, where do you see "JOY" most often (decor, songs, ads, social)?

Start Thinking.

- Why do you think God chose shepherds, outsiders, working at night, to first hear the good news? What does that say about God's heart?
- *"Happiness is based on external factors. Joy is based on internal reality."* Where do you see that in scripture and your own life?
- What makes *"Always be joyful"* feel impossible? What might Paul know about

God, the gospel, and the Holy Spirit that makes this command realistic?

- How do the shepherds illustrate that faith leads to action? What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually going to Him?
- What does the rich young ruler teach us about the limits of money, pleasure, and comfort when it comes to joy?

Start Sharing.

1. Where in your life have you most confused happiness with joy? What did you learn?
2. Talk about a season when circumstances were hard, and you still experienced God-given joy. What helped you?
3. Where are you tempted to "stay in the field" instead of moving toward Jesus? What might it look like to "get up and move" toward Jesus this week?
4. *"Joy is less about where we are and more about where our focus is."* Where is your focus most of the time? Problems, performance, comfort, comparison, or God? How does your focus shape your joy level?
5. How have you seen sharing your faith or inviting someone to church deepen your own joy? If not, what holds you back?

Start Praying.

God, thank You for sending Jesus as good news that causes great joy for all people. Help us know Him personally. Fill us with your Spirit and teach us to choose joy in You, even when circumstances are hard. Open our eyes to people who need Your joy, and give us courage to share the good news with them. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Refocus daily on God's goodness.
- Get up, move, and "go to" Jesus. Identify and take a Next Step in following Him.
- Pray for and pursue ONE person you know who doesn't know Jesus.
- Practice joyful generosity with something intentional.