

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Advent
Title: Joy
Speaker: David Manuel
Date: December 5, 2021



WARM-UP

Do you differentiate between happiness and joy?

- If so, how would you define each? What is the difference?
- What is one thing in your life that you would say brings you joy?

DISCUSSION

Read Luke 2:1-20

- Where do you notice joy in the Christmas story?
- Where do you feel your own sense of joy as you read the story and reflect on its meaning?

Read John 3:22-30 and then John 15:9-11

- What do you learn about joy from these two passages?
- Note that both passages speak about one's joy being complete. What do you think that means?
- How do you think a person can attain that kind of joy?

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DISCUSSION

Read Galatians 5:22-25. Note the context in which joy is described.

- What do you think it means that joy is a fruit of the Spirit?
- What might that tell us about how we can cultivate more joy in our lives?

We are living through a season in history that is very difficult for many people. Worldwide we are experiencing a pandemic that seems to show no signs of going away any time soon. On top of that, locally, many people have been devastated by the recent flooding.

- What does joy look like in the middle of this current context?
- How can we express joy, and live as people of joy, in the midst of these trying circumstances?

PRAYER

Who do you know of in your life who needs an infusion of real joy this Christmas season?

- Take time to pray on behalf of those individuals, asking God to bring into their life the real joy — the true joy — that can only come from Him.