

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

What is Biblical Joy? Biblical joy is based on the grace of God and not our circumstances. Joy is different from happiness; it results from a dependence upon and gratitude towards God regardless of our situation. Joy grows as we experience a deeper connection with God even through adverse and trying circumstances.

1. Mixer: Share about some recent good news.
2. Share a takeaway you gained from the sermon.
3. Watch “A Savior is Born: Joy” by Pete Briscoe on Right Now Media. Take notes as you watch the 14 minute video:
 - a. Share one insight you gained from the teaching.
 - b. Read Luke 2:8-20. God chose shepherds; not the chief priests or elders to hear the good news. Why is this so?
 - c. What does this say about God honoring and exalting the humble and meek?
4. “He (the king of Heaven) directed his angels to that freezing hilltop into the silence, disrupting the brokenness of those men to invite them into the most amazing moment in history.” -- Pete Briscoe
In what areas of life is God interrupting you while healing your sin and brokenness?
5. Pete Briscoe used the story of the Christmas song “Silent Night” in his lesson and said Jesus’ birth was the “dawn of redeeming grace.” How is the redeeming grace of God bringing joy into your life?
6. Spend time thanking God for how He uses our brokenness to create beautiful things.
7. Mission 2:5 Follow-up: Who are two people you love that do not know Christ yet? Invite them this week to join you at the Christmas Eve Service. Spend time praying for their hearts to be open to the gospel.

- A. What is **Joy**? Ps 30:1-5
 1. Joy as **Feeling** Mt 18:13;
Lk 13:17; 24:52; Rom 16:19
 2. Joy as **Action** Mt 5:11-12; I Thess 5:16;
Js 1:2; I Pet 4:13; Gal 5:22
- B. The angels **announced** joy.
 1. The angels came to **ordinary** people.
 2. The appearance of angels often brought **fear**. Lk 1:11-13; Mt 28:2-5
 3. The angels brought **good news**.
- C. What is the **cause** of joy? Lk 2:11
 - Forgive us
 - Restore us
 - New Covenant
 - Destroy the works of the devil
- D. Help **along** the way.
 1. Joy isn’t the absence of **pain**. Js 1:2-4
 2. The promise of Jesus leads us to a **joyful life**.
 3. Joy leads us to a life of **worship**. Mt 2:10-11

Conclusion:

Rom 15:13; Phil 4:4