

DECEMBER 17, 2017

week 3: JOY

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The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”—Luke 2:10-11

JOYFUL, JOYFUL

Joy is one of the hardest human experiences to explain and describe because the emotion goes beyond surface-level life circumstances. Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. Whereas happiness is often determined by the things that happen to us or around us, joy is determined by something inside us. Since joy comes from within, we can find joy in both good and hard situations. Did you know joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This means that God produces joy in us, and one of the ways God produces joy inside us is through giving to and serving others. In our verses for today, the angel said “I bring you good news of great joy ...” which is why we sing songs like “Joy to the World” at Christmas. Jesus is God’s gift to us which, not only gave God joy, but gives us joy, as well.

JOY OF GIVING AND SINGING

Experience joy through giving: Prepare a gift basket of some snacks to give to one of your neighbors. Take a trip to a local grocery store and pick out some snack foods (e.g. popcorn, candy, hot chocolate, etc.) and a basket.

Experience joy through singing: Sing “Joy to the World” with your family.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How is joy different from happiness?

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2. What are ways God produces joy in us?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 18 - Luke 2:1-3
December 19 - Luke 2:4-5

December 20 - Luke 2:6-7
December 21 - Romans

December 22 - 2 Corinthians 9:15
December 23 - Psalm 29:11