



### **Advent Week 3 – Joy**

Why is the Christmas message so full of joy? What's the difference between 'joy' and 'happiness'? How do we experience and keep experiencing this joy? This week, we'll be looking at ways we can keep choosing joy.

#### **Ice Breaker**

Describe one of the more unique or meaningful gifts you've received for Christmas (as a child or adult). Why was it so meaningful to you?"

#### **Read Nehemiah 8:10 and Zephaniah 3:17**

What did you think of the statement that God is a God of joy as well as of love, justice etc.? How does that fit with how God has been presented to you in the past?

In **Revelation 3:20** Jesus is knocking on the door of a Christian church asking for them to open the door to him. If Jesus already dwells within us (Gal. 2:20) then why would he be asking to be let in?

What did you think of the difference between happiness and joy? Have you experienced that difference?

**Galatians 2:20** tells us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Do we as individuals have any part to play in the fruit of the Spirit growing in us?

#### **FACT → FAITH → FEELING**

Have you ever heard of this illustration which is sometimes used for describing the Christian life. It's the image of a train where Fact comes first, followed by faith and at the end comes feeling. The implication is that we shouldn't depend on feelings but on fact and faith first. Do you think this illustration is accurate for the spiritual life?

#### **Moving Forward**

Where, in your life, do you experience joy?

#### **Prayer Prompts**

Share prayer requests with one another and pray specifically for each other. Pray that God would help us (and others in our church) be alert/aware of the people (friends, family, colleagues, etc.) we need to invite to a Christmas Eve service.