



Advent 2021 A Season of Promise
Jesus and the Promise of Joy
 Pastor Chris Lenhart – December 12, 2021

“Joy is a gift that should come to characterize the lives of those who have received and been transformed by the good news of Jesus. People who inhabit and follow Jesus, should come to be seen and known as joy-filled people.”

1. How is the gift of Jesus wrapped up in the promise of joy?
2. What were the gloomy circumstances that Jesus was born into?
3. Where does joy spring forth in the birth narrative of Jesus?
4. What did Jesus teach about joy, and how did he exemplify joy in his ministry?
5. Looking unto Jesus, how might we inhabit similar attitudes and behaviors so that we might be seen and known as joy-filled people?

**Supporting
Scripture**

Is. 7:14
 Is. 9:1-3
 Zech. 2:10-11
 Matt. 1

Matt. 2:1-8, 13-14, 16-18
 Gen. 25:24-26

Num. 24:17-18
 Mt. 2:9-10
 Lk. 1:39-45
 Lk. 2:10-11

Jn. 15:10-11
 Heb. 12:2

Lk. 15:1-10
 Jn. 17:13
 Gal. 5:22

Scriptures related to joy for reflection and meditation this week...

Psalm 45 – Monday
 Romans 14:13-19 – Tuesday
 James 1:2-3 – Wednesday
 Philippians 2:14-18 – Thursday
 1 Peter 4:12-19 – Friday

Next Week: Advent Series #4 – A Season of Promise: Love

Advent 2021 A Season of Promise Jesus and the Promise of Joy Growing together in a Greater Love – Discipleship Guide	
<p>Get together as a family or with a friend or group of friends this week!</p> <p>Start with Prayer -ask Jesus to guide your time together. Go over prayer requests together.</p> <p>Read the Text -read the text together. (Matthew 2:1-16, et. al.)</p> <p>Discussion Guiding Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the prophecies that were explored this week from Isaiah and Zechariah. How is concept of joy anticipated in the prophecies? 2. How does Jesus being born during the reign of King Herod help to clarify that joy is something that should not be dependent on our circumstances? 3. Why is it important to come to understand joy as more than an emotion, attitude, or feeling? How would you define joy? 4. Visit John 15:10-11 together, then Hebrews 12:1-2. What did Jesus teach about joy, and how did his life on earth come to exemplify the highest ideals of joy? 5. How has Jesus increased your joy? What would be some lifestyle patterns of a person who was known or seen as a joy-filled person? <p>Questions towards Spiritual Growth & Discipleship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does this text challenge you to grow in a greater love for God? 2. How are you motivated to grow in a greater love for others? 3. How might Jesus be motivating you to apply some of the principles from this passage to your family, career, community, or church? 4. How might Jesus be using you to draw those that do not know him unto himself? 5. How will you pray for each other between now and next time you meet? 	<p><u>Supporting Scripture</u> Is. 7:14 Is. 9:1-3 Zech. 2:10-11 Matt. 1 Matt. 2:1-8, 13-14, 16-18 Gen. 25:24-26 Num. 24:17-18 Mt. 2:9-10 Lk. 1:39-45 Lk. 2:10-11 Jn. 15:10-11 Heb. 12:2 Lk. 15:1-10 Jn. 17:13 Gal. 5:22</p> <p><u>Prayer Requests</u></p> <p>Family</p> <p>Church</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Career/Friends</p> <p>Other</p>