

Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions

Week of December 14th, 2025

Sermon Series: A Weary World Rejoices!

Sermon Theme: “A New & Glorious Morn!”

Primary Text(s): Luke 2:1-20.

1. **Read Luke 2:1-20.**
2. Joy Is Formed Over Time.
 - a. The sermon opened with an illustration of two seniors who lived similar lives but aged into very different people: one joyful, one bitter.
 - i. *What do you think most shapes whether someone grows toward joy or toward bitterness over time?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: If someone observed your current habits of trust and reflection, what direction might they predict you’re heading?*
3. Jesus Came to Give Us His Joy (John 15:11).
 - a. Jesus says He taught His disciples in John 15 so that His joy may be in us and overflow.
 - i. *How is the joy Jesus offers different from the happiness our culture usually promotes?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: Where do you see Jesus’ joy as resilient rather than circumstantial?*
4. Joy Reframes Hardship, Not Removes It.
 - a. The sermon emphasized that joy doesn’t eliminate suffering but reshapes how we live within it.
 - i. *Have you ever experienced joy and difficulty at the same time?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: Was that joy tied more to changed circumstances or to trust in God’s faithfulness?*
5. Joy Flows from Good News
 - a. The shepherds’ joy flowed from hearing the good news that God had acted in history.
 - i. *What “news” most shapes your outlook on life right now?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: When anxiety rises, what story are you usually rehearsing internally?*
6. Attention Feeds Joy (Colossians 3:1–3).
 - a. The sermon stated that what we attend to most profoundly shapes our joy.

- i. *What currently receives most of your attention, and how is it shaping your inner life?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: How does focusing on Christ help you interpret, not ignore, life's difficulties?*
- 7. Joy Deepens Through Presence.
 - a. The shepherds' joy grew when they moved from hearing about Jesus to being with Him.
 - i. *What helps you move from information about Jesus to awareness of His presence?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: Which spiritual practices feel like an encounter rather than an obligation?*
- 8. Presence and Relationships Shape Joy.
 - a. The sermon connected Scripture and psychology in showing that presence, human and divine, shapes joy.
 - i. *How do the people you spend the most time with influence your faith and joy?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: Who helps you become more attentive to Jesus?*
- 9. Joy Is Sustained by Remembering (Luke 2:19).
 - a. Mary sustained joy by treasuring and reflecting on what God had done.
 - i. *What is one way you could intentionally remember God's faithfulness this week?*
 - ii. *Follow-up: What moments with God would be helpful for you to recall during future hard seasons to sustain your joy?*