



# Christmas at The Cove

## Week 4 - Leap for Joy

### Discussion Guide

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Can you remember how hard it was, as a young child, to go to sleep on Christmas Eve? Maybe as parents, you are discovering the almost uncontainable excitement of your children. What if...everyday...there was an underlying thrill to see what lay ahead, who we would meet, or how we would connect? What if just the thought of spending time with God was enough to cause a “Christmas morning buzz”?

1. Share one of your favorite, most “joy-filled” Christmas memories.
2. *Look for joy.* **Read Luke 1:47.** Michael Metcalf read from the God’s Word version: “My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior.” Where do you tend to look for joy when you are in default mode? Relationships, possessions, achievements? What could you do to keep looking to God for joy?
3. *Trust for joy.* **Read Romans 15:13, Proverbs 16:20, and Psalm 130:5.** Some versions interchange the word “hope” for “trust.” One version says “believing” instead of “trusting.” In a world where we expect circumstances to dictate our happiness, what do you think about these action and feeling words? What responsibility does this put on you for your own joy?
4. *Share for joy.* **Read Luke 1:38-47.** Mary received the news from the angel, willingly agreed to be a part of God’s plan, and immediately she went to share with her cousin. What motivated her to go? What blessings did she receive because she went? How do these motivations and blessings apply to your life when you share the Joy of the world?
5. Final Thought: Christmas is a time when people are looking for joy and open to spiritual conversations. Have you been intentional about sharing the joy you have found in Christ with others? Who is on your heart this minute and how can you reach out to them with spiritual truth or an invitation to “come and see” what you have found?

### Deeper

**Read Hebrews 12:2.** In this passage, we see that Jesus had joy. However Jesus was headed toward an unfavorable situation. What was the situation Jesus was facing, and why was He able to have joy through that? What strategy did Jesus use to keep joy, and how can you apply that in your own circumstances?

**Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Joy is a product of someone who is following Jesus. There are also several other character traits, or “fruits,” of a Jesus follower. While they seem to stand on their own, these fruits are connected. Take a few minutes, use Bible Gateway, your YouVersion app, or your favorite study Bible to research how joy relates to the other “fruits” of the spirit.

Joy → Love

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Joy → Peace

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Joy → Patience

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Joy → Kindness

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Joy → Goodness

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Joy → Faithfulness

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Joy → Gentleness

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Joy → Self-Control

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