



Christmas at The Cove 2015

Part 4 – Joy in the Journey Study Guide

“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!” It’s a popular line from a famous Christmas song that rings loudly the glad moment when Jesus came to Earth. Yet, when we think about joy, it can be really elusive or easy to lose. Often, we allow our circumstances to determine whether or not we have joy. This Christmas, let’s discover Who gives us joy, enjoy the journey, and share the good news to everyone around us, no matter our circumstances.

“And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

Luke 2:10 (ESV)

1. How much does joy impact our lives and why do circumstances often rob us of our joy? Should joy really be based on circumstance? Why or why not?
2. **Read Luke 2:8-11.** Discuss the following questions:
 - Why are the shepherds so afraid when the angel had a joy-filled message? What makes the angel visiting the shepherds so incredible?
 - What are some things that cause you to be fearful? How are you able to overcome those fears?
3. **Read Luke 2:13-16.** It’s not enough to experience joy. We have get moving in order to continue experiencing it.
 - What kind of image comes to mind when you think of someone “going with haste”?
 - When you don’t go where God tells you to go, what happens? Has that happened in your life? Share with your group.
 - What does it take to have a sense of urgency such as the shepherds had? How has a sense of urgency affected your life?

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11 (ESV)

4. **Read Luke 2:17-20.** When you meet Jesus, joy is uncontained, and you need to share it with others.
 - How did the shepherds’ response impact the lives of others?
 - When was the last time you shared the good news with someone? What kind of impact did it have?
 - In what ways are you finding joy in your journey? Why is it important for our journey to always point back to God?

5. As you close, share with your group things that tend to rob you of your joy. Pray through those things and ask God to give each group member joy.