



Christmas Lost?: wk3 Joy

Introduction: Good news of great joy! That's what the angels say about Christmas. This year there are a lot of us suffering from a joy deficit. How can we have joy even when our circumstances are difficult?

Discussion Questions

1. When is a time you can remember where you experienced "great joy?"
2. Emotions are important to feel, but terrible guides. What do you think about that? Is it possible to have joy/experience happiness in the midst of pain?
3. **Read Luke 9-12** Why do you think God sent the angels to the Shepherds? What is said in that message that prompted joy for them?
4. Both in this message and the message that Mary receives there is an implied message-that God sees them. Have you ever thought about the idea that God sees you? Is that a comforting thought or a scary one?
5. In coming as a baby, Jesus made God accessible and approachable. Yet there is a tension between necessary reverence and that accessibility. What are the two sides of that tension? Where do you land the most (reverence/fear or approachable)?
6. The reality is that Jesus was born to die. The angels said "a savior has been born to you." How often do you think about your need for a savior, and that God provided one in Jesus?
7. If you are having a joy deficiency this year-how can you grow your level of joy?

Shaping Your Mind – *Luke 2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

Moving Forward – In a world that could use some good news, we have good news of great joy! Pass it on