

The Arrival

Joy Is Closer Than You Think

Message Summary

When life is hard, joy can seem far away. But God promises joy in His presence. We get to make the choice to experience joy. When we do, we learn that the greatest enemy of joy isn't pain—it's distraction.

Key Scripture

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:8-11 NIV

Additional Scriptures

- Luke 2:8-20 NIV
- Acts 2:2 NIV
- Acts 9:3 NIV
- 2 Corinthians 7:4 ESV
- Colossians 1:24 ESV
- James 1:2 NIV
- Philippians 3:8 NIV
- Hebrews 12:2 ESV

Resources

Learn more about Advent.

Visit: www.go2.lc/advent



Talk It Over

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How has celebrating Advent impacted your holiday season this year?
- How did you share peace with others this past week?

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- On a scale of 1-10, how joyful do you feel right now? Talk about your rating together.
- Read **Luke 2:8-20**. What stands out to you in this story? How does it build your faith and increase your joy?

Start Sharing

Choose a question to create openness.

- Talk about a time when you were in the middle of unmet expectations but still had joy. What happened, and what did you learn about God as a result?
- Where have distractions been robbing you of joy? How can you intentionally slow down to experience more joy over the next few weeks?

Start Praying

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift and the joy of Jesus. This week, we celebrate the endless ways You're moving in and through our lives. In all circumstances and situations, we choose a posture of joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Keep a list of all the ways you experience joy this week. Share what you list with your LifeGroup throughout the week.
- Start the Bible Plan *The Christmas Story* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/christmas24
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.