



**2020 ADVENT SERIES**  
**“THE HOPE OF HIS PRESENCE”**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**  
**DATE: DEC 13, 2020**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**  
**LUKE 2:10-11; JAMES 1:2-4**

This message is a beautifully honest sermon regarding the complicated nature of Joy. It teaches us that Joy is often found where we least expect it, and how that should be an important part of the way we understand joy.

Often, life feels difficult and deep, or easy and shallow. Pastor Brad challenged us to find beauty and joy in the deep places by being patient and understanding that a deep joy comes from placing our faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you hear the word “joy” what comes to mind?
2. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
3. What or who helps you feel better when you feel down?
4. When have you felt really joyful in life? What caused your joy?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Who is receiving the message from the angels in Luke 2?
2. Why is their position in society important? What does it tell us about the messengers?
3. Why was the news of a child in a nearby town enough to make this group of men joyful?
4. What did Brad tell us about the Greek word for GREAT that was used here?
5. What stands out to you most about Luke 2:10-11 in light of this Advent Season?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Where in society do you see people who are happy? How about joyful?
2. Do you know anyone who seems happy all the time? How do you feel around those people?
3. How important does joy seem to be to the people around you at home and at work?
4. What is our culture's definition of joy?
5. Based on whatever understanding you have of the Bible, how do you think Jesus would define joy?

**CONTINUED:**

**LOOK IN:** *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. When do you feel the most happy in your week?
2. What season of life has been the most joyful for you?
3. Do you actively seek joy in your day to day life? How does that function?
4. Has your definition of joy changed as you have grown older?
5. What has shaped the way you think about the joy found in the Gospel of Jesus?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Brad told us that we were created for connection with God, and that joy is a part of that picture. How can you move toward connection with God during this season of ups and downs we are all walking through?
2. Who in your life needs encouragement? Who needs to have joy shared with them? How can you come alongside your family members and neighbors and seek wholeness and joy on their behalf?