



advent week three

joy

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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 Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

- Luke 2:1 - 14



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discussion/questions:

- What does joy mean to you?
- When have you experienced or witnessed a time of joy this year?
- How does the joy of Jesus' coming - in the past, present and future encourage and challenge you?

prayer

Are you in need of God's joy? Why not ask Him to come specifically where you need joy the most? Or, thank Him for the joy filled moments of your life as you reflect on the journey of your year?

Romans 15:13 - *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

kids

It's been shown that cultivating gratitude releases joy in us. Sit down with your child and at the end of each day and write down 3 things that you're/they're grateful for. Thank God for those things.

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