

Presents from Jesus

Luke 2:8-11

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The second present that we see from Jesus is the gift of joy. The angels tell the shepherds that they bring good news with great joy for all people. Jesus brings with Him a joy for the whole world that the world has never experienced before. Previously the world had hope that God will fulfill His promise to bring a savior. Now the world has received the savior and can also receive the joy that comes with the savior. This week we will talk about the joy of the Lord that arrived with the gift of Jesus. Should all Christians be joyful all the time? How do we receive and have joy in our lives? How can we bring joy to those around us? These are the questions we will seek to answer this week from the scriptures.



Luke 2:8-11 (NASB)

⁸In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Philippians 4:4-5 (NASB)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. In Luke 2 where does the joy come from that is talked about in verse 10?

9. Who offers joy?

10. What is the source of joy in Luke 2?

11. What is the source of joy in James 1? What is the source of joy in Philippians 4?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. When is it difficult to be joyful?

13. The last couple years the radio station KSBJ has asked people to make a joy pledge and choose joy. Can we choose joy? How do we choose joy?

14. Christians often are told they should have the joy of the Lord. Is it right for us to expect other Christians to be joyful? Is it wrong if we as Christians are not joyful?

15. What are some practical ways that we can bring more joy to our lives and the lives of people around us?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES