

Sunday, December 6, 2020 - "Advent 2020 - Week 2: Joy" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Galatians 5:22, John 15:11, 2 Corinthians 8:2, Luke 10:21, Acts 2:28

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

#### Main Ideas

- Christmas is an epic love story
  - Love reigns victorious
  - Romans 5:5
- This week: JOY
  - Theology/framework of Joy
  - Passages read during service: Psalm 4:7, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 30:5, Psalm 51:12, Psalm 126:5. Luke 1:44, Luke 2:10, John 3:29, John 15:11, John 16:22. John 17:13, Acts 2:28, Romans 12:12, Romans 15:13, 2 Corinthians 8:2, Galatians 5:22, 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2 Timothy 1:4, Philemon 1:7, 1 Peter 1:8
- 5 Exciting/Liberating truths about Joy
  - 1) Joy is a gift given to us by the Holy Spirit
    - Galatians 5:22
    - We have the fruit...it's about living into it
    - Joy can't be manufactured..."God opposes self-help strategies" - Doug Kempton
  - 2) It's Jesus' Joy
    - John 15:11
    - It's supernatural and beyond temporal
  - 3) Joy is for everyone
    - Luke 2:10
    - Young or old, new follower or old follower
  - 4) Joy is not circumstantially dependent (at least it's not supposed to be)
    - No qualifiers
    - Joy produces gratitude and whole life generosity
  - 5) Supernatural joy is meant to be overflowing (when it is overflowing it is contagious)
- There is some fine print...
  - If we want joy we have to pay attention to how we live our lives
  - We have to stay connected to God, continuously filled
  - "This is what being a Christian is meant to be like. He is a person who has received something of the fullness of Christ and then goes on receiving it increasingly." - Martin Lloyd-Jones
- The question is not "Do You have it?" but is instead "Are you full?"

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does joy, real joy, mean to you?
2. Are you overflowing with the supernatural joy of God in your life? Why or why not?
3. Which of the five truths about joy resonates with you the most and why?
4. How have you tried to employ self-help strategies before? What did God teach you?
5. How is God calling you to connect with him during this advent season?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Psalm 131 Tues: Psalm 132 Wed: Psalm 133 Thurs: Psalm 134 Fri: Psalm 135**

**Songs from the weekend: [O Come All Ye Faithful/We Adore You - *Paul Baloche*] - [High King of Heaven/Jesus We Love You - Paul and Hannah McClure] - [Hark - Hillsong Worship] - [Worthy of It All - Bethel Music]**