



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Four Gifts*
Message: *The Gift of Joy*

Scripture: *Luke 2:8-11; John*
16:20-24

Date: *December 21-22, 2019*

—[LET'S START]—

Its Christmas week. How will you/did you spend Christmas this year? What are some of the traditions that make Christmas special for you/your family?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. In this week's message, Pastor Dale spoke about the gift of you. What is the best definition of joy that you have ever heard?
3. Read Luke 2:8-20. Put yourself in the story. How would you have felt if you were one of the shepherds abiding in the field that night? What do you think the angels thought about the message that they were delivering? What about the angel's message sticks out the most to you?
4. Think some more about the word, "joy." How has Christ brought joy into the world? How has Christ brought joy into your life?
5. Read John 16:20-24. Pastor Dale talked about several truths about joy this week. How have you seen each of these to be true:
 - Joy is more than a state of being!
 - Joy is based on a relationship with Jesus!
 - Joy is placed into our lives through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit!
 - Joy and suffering can coexist together!
 - How we see ourselves affects how we think about joy!
 - Joy can always be restored in our lives!
6. Pastor Dale ended his message with this quote from Tim Keller: "When you long for joy in the world but nothing fulfills it, you realize that you were created for more than this world." How does that quote impact you?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Dale said, "This Christmas many people are shopping for joy! They are trying to find that certain gift, which will make their loved one or friend overjoyed! I think that's a wonderful thing to want to bring joy into someone's life by giving them a special gift. But let's be honest, it's a joy that will not last. It is temporary. This world and the things of this world do not provide the lasting joy our hearts yearn for. That's because we were not created for this world, we were created for a relationship with God and until we surrender to him and look for our joy in him we will always be chasing joy." Let's end our group this week by praying for those in our lives who are chasing for joy in all of the wrong places and pray that this New Year may be the year that they give their lives to Christ.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Joy is more a state of blessing than an emotion! – Luke 2:10; John 16:22
- Joy is based on a relationship with Jesus! – Luke 2:10; John 15:9-11
- Joy is placed into our lives through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit! – Luke 2:10; Galatians 4:4-7; Galatians 5:22
- We should aim for an LUI – Living Under the Influence of the Holy Spirit
- Joy and suffering can coexist together! – John 16:20-21
- Jesus says that in this life there's going to be hardship, suffering and loss. But he reminds us not to focus on the negative things that take place around us, to us and sometimes in us! Instead we need to keep our eyes focused on the eventual outcome. All our grief will turn to joy when we finally enter into the presence of God, then all that doesn't make sense right now will no longer matter as we stand complete in Christ.
- How we see ourselves affects how we think about joy! - Luke 2:9-10
- You experience far greater joy when you know you're receiving that which you do not deserve!
- Joy can always be restored in our lives! - Luke 2:10; Luke 16:22; Psalm 51:7-11
- "When you long for joy in the world but nothing fulfills it, you realize you were created for more than this world." - Tim Keller

—[NOTES]—
