

12/20/2020

Embracing Joy

1. Motivate

A video introduction is available to view at
https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_zb672d1d

What's something you'd love to *add* to your celebration of Christmas?

2. Transition

Many of our wishes and our actual celebrations can bring us joy

- We can experience true joy because Jesus saves.

3. Bible Study

3.1 God, Our Salvation, Brings Joy

Listen for an invitation.

Psalm 95:1-3 (NIV) Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

What is the nature of the invitation in these verses?

What words or phrases express the type of worship the psalmist urges?

Why is God to be worshiped?

What ways might this passage suggest that we worship God personally or privately?

What has recently led you to praise God? What motivates you to offer praise and thanksgiving to God today, right now?

How can believers express joy to the Lord in our daily lives?

3.2 Jesus, Born to Bring Us Salvation

Listen for difficulties of the trip described.

Luke 2:4-7 (NIV) 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. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

What event provided historical context for the account of Jesus' birth?

What were the difficulties involved in this trip?

What suggests the birth was normal and common?

Yet, what elements in these verses suggest the birth was unusual? What are some things that are incongruous about the birth of the King of Kings?

If the birth of Jesus was so momentous, why was He born in such humble circumstances?

3.3 Jesus' Birth, Cause for Great Joy

Listen for an important message.

Luke 2:8-14 (NIV) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

List words of encouragement, joy, and celebration that appear in the angel's announcement.

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Why do you think God chose to reveal the birth of the Son of God to mere shepherds?
(They were not considered high society – couldn't even act as a witness in the courts)

⇒ Jesus came for the rich and the poor, for the Jews and the Gentiles

Note the three titles given to the Baby. What is the significance of these titles?

Name	Significance
Savior	
Christ	
the Lord	

How does God's sending the Christ Child 2000 years ago bring you joy today?

The shepherds received a joyful *personal* announcement about Jesus. How can we make the joy of Christmas *personal* to those around us?

