

December 14th 2025

Sermon: When Heaven Broke Through: JOY Week 3 of Advent

Main text: Luke 2:8-12; John 1:14

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell me about God?

2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4. Who am I, going to tell?

Other, Key quotes; points and questions to reflect on and discuss from Criag message:

Key Points:

Joy is often confused with temporary happiness.

Many things associated with Christmas bring joy food, gifts, music, traditions but they are **seasonal and fading**. Biblical joy goes deeper and lasts longer.

Biblical joy has a cause, not just a feeling.

In Luke 2:10, the angel announces *good news that will cause great joy*. The joy is rooted in something objective and real, not circumstantial.

The cause of joy is the presence of Jesus.

Jesus' birth God becoming flesh and dwelling among us (Emmanuel) is the source of lasting joy. God moved into our neighbourhood.

Joy is possible even in difficult circumstances.

The context of Jesus' birth was filled with hardship: silence from God, political unrest, shame, inconvenience, poverty, and darkness yet joy broke through.

Joy can be expressed in different ways. The Shepherds: outward, expressive joy sharing, praising, glorifying God

Mary: inward, reflective joy treasuring, pondering, holding things in her heart

Both responses are faithful and valid.

Key Quotes:

"Joy that fades is often rooted in circumstances; joy that lasts is rooted in presence."

"The good news doesn't just announce joy it *causes* joy."

"Our joy is not found in our circumstances, but in the reality of God with us."

"Heaven broke through in the darkness, not after the darkness passed."

"Jesus moved into our neighbourhood and that is reason to rejoice."

Key Questions from the message:

What typically brings you joy—and how long does it last?

How does that compare to the joy described in the Christmas story?

What does it mean to you that joy has a cause?

How does knowing Jesus is the source of joy change how you approach hard seasons?

Where in your life right now do you need to be reminded that *God is with you*?

How might His presence reshape your outlook in that area?

Do you resonate more with the Shepherds or with Mary in how you express joy?

Why do you think God values both outward celebration and inward reflection?

How can you intentionally rejoice this week—regardless of circumstances?

What practical step will you take to root your joy more deeply in Christ?