

ADVENT

HOPE JOY LOVE PEACE

Leader Conversation Guide – Advent (Part II): JOY

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued our Advent series with a message on joy. Sometimes we can confuse the happiness and joy, which gives us a poor perspective on life's ever-changing circumstances. Happiness is external, joy is internal. Happiness is based on circumstance, joy is based on Christ. Happiness happens by chance, joy happens by choice.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

Make It Practical

- Keep Preaching: Don't let the situations that surround you, stop you from being the person God has called you to be.
- Keep Fighting: Fight the right battles. People are not your problem. Philippians 1:18 says, "But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice."
- Keep Trusting: Your life is In God's hands, so keep trusting Him. He works all things for His good. Philippians 1:21-23 reads, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far."
- Keep Anticipating: Hope is the gift that God gives us to endure every season we're in. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 tells us, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Talk About It

- What part of this message impacted you the most?
- How has the Joy of Christ impacted your life?
- What steps can you take to shift your perspective from the earthly, to the eternal?

**Don't focus on what you're going through,
focus on what you're going to.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Joy, and the remembrance that You are working all things for Your good. Holy Spirit, help us to remember all You have done for us, and to reflect joy on to those around us. Show us the opportunities we have every day to express the joy and goodness You have given to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Leader Tip

Identify a co-leader for next Groups semester and fill out the [Creating Your Group](#) form.