

Joy

[Jesus is Born]



THE BIG IDEA

Joy is a God-given gladness that doesn't change if good or bad things happen in our day.



MEMORY VERSE

See resource FOS4 Ideas for Learning Memory Verses.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



KEY VERSE

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

In your presence there is fullness of joy.



READ

Luke 2: 1-12



DISCUSSION

Tonight we are going to think about the second fruit of the spirit – Joy. Before we think about it together, let me ask you, what is joy?

I think that lots of people would say joy is a feeling of happiness, but that's not quite right, because happiness and joy are two different things.

Happiness is a feeling that we get when something good happens, but happiness

Resources



Praise Songs

Joy of the Lord by
Rend Collective



Counting on God
by Shout Praises Kids



Activity

See Resource FOS2

Smiley Face Fruit Snacks



Crafts

See Resource FOS3

Joy Banana
Joy Apple



Pictures

See Additional Resources

Session 3 Pictures



Programme Card

Nativity Crossword

https://bit.ly/Prog_Jnrs_nativityCW

disappears when something bad happens (then we feel sad, which is the opposite of happiness.)

I am going to show you all some pictures, and I want you to tell me whether you feel happy or sad when you see each one by putting your thumbs up or down. Are you ready? Let's go!

[You can maybe ask a few of the boys why they've put their thumbs up or down as you go through each one]

Use pictures from Additional Resources: Session 3 Pictures or use props.

1. Pizza
2. The beach
3. Someone who has hurt themselves
4. A games console
5. A bad test score
6. Brussel sprouts
7. A present

It is unlikely that someone would feel happy about all of those things because happiness is a feeling that is based on our circumstances and what is happening around us. Happiness comes and goes all the time – it is an emotion that changes day by day depending on what is going on.

Joy is different though. Joy isn't based on what is happening around us, but it is something that comes from God, who lives within us. Let's look at two verses from the

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 126:3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

The Bible tells us that joy is a God-given gladness that doesn't change if good or bad things happen in our day. Joy comes from God and so we can be joyful even in unhappy moments. Let's take a look at some people in the bible who were given news of great joy – let's head to Luke 2.



The Talk

Read Luke 2:1-12

[Ask] Can you name at least 5 things that the angels told the Shepherds?

For emoji pictures see Additional Resources: Session 3 Pictures.

The first surprising (display a shocked emoji) thing about this story is that the good news came to shepherds.

Shepherds back in those days wouldn't have expected any visitors because most people stayed away from them. Their job was a tough job so they would have been pretty smelly (display a queasy emoji), and dirty and their clothes wouldn't have been very nice. Shepherds weren't very important in people's eyes – but God loved them (display a heart emoji) and they were important to Him, so He decided to give them some amazing news (display a newspaper emoji) before anyone

else heard about it. It was news that was going to bring great joy (display a smiling emoji) to all people.

What was the news?

It's the news that Jesus had been born, and this is news that changed the world (display a world emoji) forever because it is the best news we could ever be given.

Why is it such good news?

The angels explain because they tell us that Jesus is our Saviour; the Messiah; the promised one of God. You see, ever since sin entered the world in the garden of Eden, God's people and God's world have been waiting for the one that God said would come and make everything right and new again.

We see that when we read Genesis 3:14-15, So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because

you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'

God's Rescue Plan

From the very beginning, God had a great rescue plan, and as the angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds in the field, they were announcing that Jesus was the one who was going to deal with sin once and for all, and that is exactly what He did when He died on the cross and rose back to life again.

Now, when we put our trust in Him, we can know that we are forgiven and that we have a place in Heaven. So no matter what comes our way, good or bad, we can always know joy because our hope is secure in Jesus, the one who is always with us and always for us.

Joy comes from God and it leaves us content in any circumstance. Other things don't provide that. The things that people really

want in the world – popularity, success, money, relationships – will never satisfy us or make us complete. They will make us happy for a little while, but they won't and can't give us lasting joy – only Jesus can give us that.

A teacher and pastor called RC Sproul once said this:

"We rejoice in the Lord, and because He never leaves us or forsakes us, we can rejoice always."

What he is saying is that joy is found in knowing Jesus, and because He has promised to never leave us, then we can always have joy. We have joy because God has delivered us from sin. We have joy because God is good and right, and just. We have joy because God invites us to be in His family forever.



***In your presence
there is fullness
of joy.***

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)
