



Week #3: Waiting In Joy

One Sentence Summary:

The shepherds remind us that the Good News of Great Joy comes to the humble, transforms the fearful, is meant to be shared, and reveals the Savior who is both Shepherd and Lamb.

1. Joy begins at the _____.

*Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.*

Psalm 138:6 (NIV)

*But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”*

James 4:6 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 (NIV)

2. Joy transforms our _____.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

Luke 2:9-12 (NIV)

3. Joy has a _____.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 12:11-12 (NIV)

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

Isaiah 53:6-7 (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29 (NIV)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11 (NIV)

4. Joy moves us _____ & _____.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

Luke 2:14 (NIV)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Ephesians 2:13-14 (NIV)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:15-18 (NIV)

Discussion questions:

1. Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of Jesus to humble, overlooked shepherds first, and what does that say about who the gospel is really for today?
2. Where do fear or insecurity tend to show up in your own life, and how might beholding Jesus (rather than your circumstances) reshape the way you respond?
3. What helps you most, and what holds you back, from moving from "Come and See" to "Go and Tell" when it comes to sharing your faith or your story with others?

Recommended resources:

[Community Church Movement Advent Devotional](#) (Free web/app resource)

[In the Manger: 25 Inspirational Selections for Advent](#), by Max Lucado

[Gentle and Lowly](#), by Dane C. Ortlund

[Hidden Christmas](#), by Timothy Keller

(NIV) New International Version

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