

12-15-24 Facilitator “The Joy of the LORD”

Pray Together:

1. Worship the LORD for his wisdom and love. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His ways of working through loss, humility, suffering and even death in order to save His people and reveal His glory.
2. How have you lived more loyal to this world (and therefore to forces of spiritual darkness) than you have to Jesus? Read Colossians 1:13-14 and confess your antagonism to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and free you the dominion of darkness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has worked His mighty power to free us from the power of sin and death. Thank Him that He was willing to bare His strong arms to save us by having them nailed open on the cross!
4. Who do you know that shows no loyalty to Jesus? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to their guilt and their need for a savior, and that they would see how trustworthy Jesus truly is.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you a greater and greater confidence in Jesus’ rule and authority. Pray that He would increase in you your trust in His wisdom and that He would help you to forsake this world’s ways.

General Discussion Questions:

- What encouraged you from worship this morning? (Think through the WHOLE service)
- What illustrations or points resonated with you in your personal circumstances?
- What do you love more about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit today?

Specific Sermon Discussion Questions:

A. Joy Inexpressible

- When were you last so joyful that you jumped or shouted aloud?
- How can we explain what Mary and Elizabeth experienced? What was it like to be them?

B. Or Joyless and Cast Down

- In what ways are we held down from jumping and shouting with joy?
- When have you experienced being cast down? When have you experienced being undeniably humbled?

C. Magnify the Lord

- What could Mary envision in this story? Why was she able to press on with joy even when her horizontal reputation was crumbling?
- How does this give us hope in our own stories?