



FAITH

Advent - Joy

Icebreaker: What are your Christmas Eve Plans?

Read Together: Philippians 4:4 (KJV)

Discuss:

- The word for Joy is the Greek word “Chara - Khar-ah,” meaning calm delight or cheerfulness, or “Chairo - Khah-ee-ro,” meaning to be calmly happy or well-off.
- What was the Holy Spirit speaking to you as you listened to Tim?

Read Together: Matthew 2:1-18 (NLT),

Discuss:

- On a day when we announce good news of great joy. *It doesn't sound very joyful...*
 - It is because of the Nature of this Joy.
 - This is a Joy that is Stronger and Deeper than our Sorrows;
 - A Joy that Cannot be Quenched by the Tragedies of Life;
 - A Joy that can Sustain those who Suffer Great Loss.
 - A Joy that Shines in the Darkness...
- Whatever the circumstances of our world and our lives, the message given to Joseph by the angel is true, and it's a message of joy—“Give him the name Jesus, because He will save His People from Their sins.”
- What circumstances are you currently facing that seems elusive of Joy?

Discuss:

- The Joy of Christmas is not just the Joy of personal salvation; it's the Joy of being part of something bigger, grander, and greater—it's the Joy of being able to participate in and cooperate with Christ in the coming and establishing of God's kingdom.
 - It's in our coming together, it's in our unity of heart and purpose, it's in our giving and serving, it's in our intentionality in the midst of our community.
 - It's the Joy of living out of all that we are blessed with to be a blessing to others.
 - It's the Joy of being a participant in the message of salvation to the world.

Discuss: Joy to the World

- What is your source of Joy?
- What is your source of Hope?

Pray:

- Ask God for Joy in the midst of your circumstances.
- Ask God for a way to provide Joy to someone else today.