



Advent - Joy

Icebreaker: What Christmas present do you remember most?

Read Together: John 15:11 (NIV), Luke 1:26b-30 (NIV)

Discuss:

- What do the scriptures for this section say?
- What was the Holy Spirit speaking to you as you listened to the message?
- When faced with fear of the unknown, Mary accepted God's purpose and plans for her life. How responsive are you to the plans God has for your life?
- What circumstances do you tend to lean on for happiness?
- Mary had the opportunity for tremendous blessing and persecution at the same time. How can you relate?
- What are the "What ifs" in your life?

Read Together: Luke 1:31b-33 (NIV), Luke 1:34-35 (NIV), Luke 1:38 (NIV), Luke 1:46-49 (NIV), Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Discuss:

- What do the scriptures for this section say?
- What do you see in the scriptures that you have not noticed before?
- What things are you having trouble seeing how they will work out?
- Joy allows us to be secure even when people don't approve of what God is doing in your life. How have you seen that be true in your life?

Read Together: Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Discuss:

- What do the scriptures for this section say?
- Have you done what Mary has done?
- Have you sat down with God and surrendered to what He is asking you to do?
- What is God asking you to entrust and surrender to Him?

Pray:

- Ask God to show you the “What ifs” in your life.
- Ask God to show you what He wants you to surrender to Him.
- Ask God for Joy in spite of your circumstances.