



# Gifts from Above

12.11.22

## BEYOND SUNDAY WEEK THREE JOY

### DAY 15

Watch the Joy video:

<https://youtu.be/qvOhQTuD2e0>

In our third week of advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of joy and how it all leads to Jesus. How does the video encourage you today?

### DAY 16

How can anyone experience joy amid so much chaos and sorrow? Circumstances can let us down, but God's promises can sustain joy. For example, when God rescued Israel from slavery, they shouted for joy even though they were still in the middle of the wilderness, far away from the land God promised to give to them.

**Read: Psalm 105:42-43, Exodus 15:1-3.**

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Which promises of God help you to be joyful today?
- Which specific actions of God encourage you to be joyful today?

### DAY 17

Sooner or later, God's wisdom leads to joy (see Psalm 19:7-8). But since Satan's deceptions usually reward with temporary pleasures, it is easy to be tricked into believing otherwise. **Read: Psalm 19:7-11, Genesis 3:1-7.**

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Compare these passages. What words and concepts are repeated in both texts? What ironies do you notice as you compare these passages?

### DAY 18

Israel chose a path apart from God. As a result, they were exiled from their land and dominated by foreign nations, but the prophet Isaiah knew that sorrow and sadness would not have the final word. He looked forward to the day when Israel's gracious God would provide a redeemer to deliver them from oppression and lead them to eternal joy. **Read: Isaiah 51:11, Isaiah 49:13.**

#### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- What does Isaiah tell us about God's character in these passages?
- What does Isaiah say will happen for God's redeemed people?

## DAY 19

The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the coming of Israel's redeemer. His prophecies were fulfilled with the arrival of Jesus. This is one of the reasons why it is significant that the angels announced Jesus' birth as "good news that brings great joy." [Read: Luke 2:9-11.](#)

### Reflection and Discussion Question:

- Why were the shepherds afraid?
- What reasons did the angels give for them to rejoice instead?

## DAY 20

Jesus teaches his followers saying, "when people reject you or persecute you for following me, rejoice, be very glad, because your reward is great in heaven." We see in Jesus' teaching that true joy can survive the harshest of circumstances because it depends on God and his promises for his people's eternal future.

[Read: Matthew 5:11-12, Acts 13:50-52, Hebrews 12:1-3.](#)

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

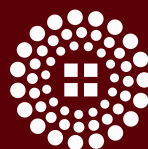
- According to these passages, how can joy be sustained even in painful and threatening circumstances?

## DAY 21

Biblical joy comes from the profound decision of faith and hope in the power of Jesus' own life and love. When we believe that Jesus' love has overcome death itself, joy becomes strangely reasonable. But this doesn't mean we should ignore or suppress sorrow; that's not healthy or helpful. Paul often expressed his grief alongside his joy. As he acknowledged his pain, he also chose to trust Jesus' promise that his loss would not have the final word. [Read: 2 Corinthians 6:10.](#)

### Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- How did Paul express both joy and sorrow? What can we learn from this?



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WEEK THREE: **JOY**