

Life Group Discussion Guide

Advent

December 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve at ALC

Join us at one of our campuses as we celebrate Christmas together!

Happy Valley: Dec 23rd, 4PM & 6PM | Dec 24th, 2PM, 4PM, & 6PM

Sandy: Dec 24th, 4PM & 6PM

Vancouver: Dec 24th, 4PM

LEADER NOTES

Our Advent series is coming to a close this week as we prepare to celebrate Christmas Eve together. In our final Sunday sermon of the year, Pastor Gareth reminded us that the true source of joy is not a “what”, but rather a “who”. It is the person of Jesus that offers us true and lasting joy, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK’S TEXT

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

See also...

Romans 14:17, John 16:24, Psalm 37:4, James 1:2

LOOK UP

This week’s text reminds us that God is deeply invested in our joy. This truth can be lost in the characterizations we often hear of a God demanding reverence and obedience. How does the description of God as a source of joy and delight compare to descriptions of God you have heard inside and outside of the church?

LOOK AROUND

What things bring you the greatest happiness?

What people bring you the greatest happiness?

When was the last time you truly delighted in Jesus? What was that experience like?

LOOK AHEAD and PRAY

Are there any circumstances in your life that are making it difficult for you to recognize the joy of Jesus?

Pray together that God would be the source of your joy in the midst of life’s circumstances.