



ANTICIPATE **Joy**

Week of December 7

announcements

Christmas Eve • Thursday, December 24 • 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 pm: Please encourage your folks to reserve their spot

No Sunday Services • December 28

Partner Class • January 25, 12:30-2:30pm: Where appropriate, challenge your group to make the commitment to the mission of North Rock Hill Church. At Partner Class they can learn about what it means to be an official NRHC Covenant Partner.

Luke 1:39–56

1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
3. In this season of your life, which character do you relate to most, and why?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

5. In this passage, Elizabeth is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and the unborn John “leaps for joy”—a powerful, immediate fulfillment of prophecy. Where in your life are you currently waiting for God to “suddenly” show up and act? When you feel impatience or doubt, how does the spontaneous, overwhelming joy and validation experienced by Elizabeth and John in this passage encourage you to trust that God’s presence and power can be revealed instantly and decisively?

6. Mary, a humble, young woman from the unrecognized town of Nazareth, responds to the Angel’s news with the submissive declaration, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38, setting up the context). What makes you feel too insignificant or unqualified for God to use you? What will it take for you to respond to God’s calling with immediate obedience, trusting that His favor, not your qualifications?

JOY PARTNER CHALLENGE

This challenge is designed to encourage your group to recognize and intentionally express the joy that comes from God’s presence, mirroring the actions of Mary and Elizabeth.

1. Pair Up: Have your group pair up with the same partner you assigned last time you met.
2. Share and Pray: Share your answer to the following question with your partner. Then, take a few minutes to pray specifically for your partner, asking God to open their eyes to His presence this week and grant them the courage to express joy even amid difficulties.
3. What is one specific blessing or action of God in your life right now that you can joyfully praise Him for, even if your circumstances are difficult?

Think about one specific person in your life who is currently experiencing a difficult or discouraging season (maybe you). What is one tangible way you can bring the joy of God’s presence to them this week (a brief personal encouragement like Elizabeth’s, or an act of service, praying with them)? Commit to taking that one practical step this week to share the joy of God’s presence with that person.

4. Commit to checking in with your prayer partner at least once this week (via text, call, or brief conversation) to encourage them and remind them that joy is a result of the presence of God in their life.