

the story

FOUND US

Pastor
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“⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ **Suddenly**, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. **'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.'** ¹¹ The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.'

¹³ **Suddenly**, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven - praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them."

~ LUKE 2:8-20 (NLT)

If you are _____, everything can _____.

“ **Suddenly**, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, "

~ LUKE 2:9 (NLT)

“ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **Suddenly**, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. "

~ ACTS 2:1-2 (NLT)

“ As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven **suddenly** shone down around him." ~ ACTS 9:3 (NLT)

“ **Suddenly**, the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.' "

~ LUKE 2:13 (NLT)

Your _____ can change _____.

Joy isn't a _____, it's a _____.

“ ...in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds."
~ 2 CORINTHIANS 7:4b (NIV)

“ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you... "
~ COLOSSIANS 1:24a (NIV)

“ Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, **consider** it an **opportunity** for great joy.”

~ JAMES 1:2 (NLT)

“ What is more, I **consider** everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I **consider** them garbage, that I may gain Christ.”

~ PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (NIV)

“ We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. **Because of the joy** awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.”

~ HEBREWS 12:2 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

The enemy of Joy isn't _____, its _____.

Don't let “ _____ ”, rob you of Joy _____.

“ The **shepherds went back to their flocks**, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.”

~ LUKE 2:2-20 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |     Google TV

- 1- On a scale of 1 to 10 how joyful do you feel right now? Why?
- 2- When was a time you suddenly got good news and your joy was great?
- 3- Read Luke 2:8-20. What stands out to you in this story? How does it build your faith and increase your joy?
- 4- Why do you think God chose shepherd - ordinary, overlooked people - as the first ones to receive the announcement of Jesus' birth? What does this teach us about God's heart?
- 5- Talk about a time when you were in the middle of unmet expectations but still had joy. What happened, and what did you learn about God as a result?
- 6- Where have distractions been robbing you of joy? How can you intentionally slow down to experience more joy over the next few weeks?

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CHRISTMAS

COLLECTIVE

NEW
Times

MONDAY
DEC. 22nd
6:30pm

TUESDAY
DEC. 23rd
6:30pm



WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24th
3:00pm & 5:00pm