

## **INTRODUCTION**

Christmas is coming! There are many words that may come to our minds during this season—joy, peace, love, regret, stress, sadness. Christmas does not always bring joyful thoughts to our minds. However, we can choose joy, even during less than joyful circumstances. In Psalms 13:5-6 (NIV) we read, "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for He has been good to me." This verse declares that our reaction to the salvation God freely offers should be rejoicing which began when Jesus came into the world as a baby that very first Christmas!

## **DISCUSSION STARTER**

- 1. When do you put up your Christmas Tree? Are you a stickler for waiting after Thanksgiving? Explain.
- 2. If you have a nativity scene on display in your house, what are the postures of the characters in the scene?

## **EVALUATE IT**

- 1. Stuart said, "Sometimes we think of "joy" as just a synonym for "happiness." But the words are different." How are they different? How would you define joy?
- 2. Read Luke 2:10. Why does the angel say, "Good news that will bring great joy" instead of "Good news and great joy?" Why are they connected and not listed as two separate things?
- 3. Read Luke 2:20. What happened to these men? How had their lives suddenly changed?
- 4. How does our faith in Christ create an opportunity for joy?

## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

- 1. What do you need the glorious God-reality to displace in your life right now?
- 2. What keeps you from having the joy Stuart spoke about that comes through having a relationship with Christ? What slips in and robs you of the joy from the great news?



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group? Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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