

Advent – Old Fashioned Family Christmas 2019

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Small Group Discussion Questions

Christmas is a joyful time and a painful time for others

Advent isn't just a nice and tidy, joyful little narrative.

*What feelings does this Christmas season bring for you?

*Are you tempted to lean in or lean back to the theme of joy this time of year?

Read and discuss Luke 1:39-45(NIV)

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

*What does this passage show us about God? About people?

*What is this passage saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

God didn't have to deploy His Great Rescue Plan through the womb of a mother

The fact that He did is something we should pay attention to.

*How does this moment in the story look like the Origin of Joy?

*What does it look like for pain and despair to sit with joy and hope in your life?

*How do the deep things of God call to the deep things of man? {Psalm 42:7}

Joy is a journey back home to who we were created to be

We have joy because we have purpose and we are part of a bigger story.

*What does it mean to be knitted into his bloodline, stitched into this story by God?

*What is the relationship between joy and journeying? Where is his purpose helping you connect to joy?

*Where is he calling you to stay in the story this season?