

Advent –Christmas Eve
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John 8:12
December 24th, 2023

The Christmas Story grabs us in a way that just simple facts cannot

'A story is a way to say something that can't be said any other way' (*Flannery O'Connor*)

*How do truths presented in story form impact us in a different way?

*What grabs you from the Christmas story? Is there something new or fresh you are seeing this year?

The angel brings news of great JOY to the shepherds

This is a joy that has lasted over 2000 years.

*What type of joy is the angel talking about here?

*How have you experienced true joy incorporate struggle and exist beyond disappointment?

This joy is the truth that God is accessible to us and wants to redeem everything

This joy acknowledges human struggle instead of ignoring it.

*How does the Christmas story reveal this in a fuller way?

*What does it mean to you for Jesus to have come to us?

The darkness reveals how amazing the light is

Christmas shows us a God who doesn't shy away from our darkness but takes up residence in it with His love.

Read and discuss John 8:12 (NIV)

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*What do we see in verse 12 about the nature of this light?

*What darkness are you carrying now?

*In what way is the life of Jesus a light in your darkness? What does it look like to let the great joy of his light into the darkness?