

Sermon Notes
“Gospel of Joy” (Lk 2:10)
Dec 17, 2023

➤ **Disappointing ‘Joy’**

➤ **Gospel Joy (Lk 2:10)**

Linked to: Promise (Gen 3:15; Mic 5:2)
Salvation: Personal (Ex 15; Is 58; Rom 5:1-2)
Salvation: Lost (Lk 15:6)
Obedience (Jn 15:17:13)
Faith & Witness (Phil 1:25-26)
Suffering (Lk 6:Rom 5:2-4; 1 Pet 1:8-9)
Strength (Neh 8:10)
Re-creation (Rev 21:4-5)

Is complete satisfaction

‘Nevertheless’ Joy (Lk 10:20)

‘Yet’ Joy (Hab 3:18)

➤ **Shared Joy (Jn 4:31-38)**

We speak His word...

i) **Continuously & ordinarily**

ii) **To be strengthened**

...out of shared delight

*Open your eyes & look at the fields...
...ripe for harvest*

Discussion Questions

These questions are only a guide. Feel free to share how God has spoken to you, what areas you question &/or do not understand. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

The promise of the angels to the shepherds was ‘Good News of great joy.’ (Lk 2:10). How is this joy different than ‘happiness?’

In what ways is your joy and contentment connected to your circumstances? Is your heart easily let down; the things you are pursuing often leave you disappointed and long for something greater?

What is joy and where does the Bible say it can be found (insert Sunday school answer here!)? What does that mean? How does life *in* Jesus translate into joy that remains in any circumstance?

In which of the two extremes in life do you struggle to maintain biblical joy – when things are going well (‘Nevertheless’ Joy) or when life gets hard and dark (‘Yet’ Joy)?

In addition to many things, Jesus connects joy with sharing the Gospel openly with others. What is your immediate reaction to that? How can opening our mouths and speaking be strengthening & enriching?

Why do we need to hear the command, ‘*Open your eyes & look...*’? What does that mean and what would that look like? In what ways are the fields around Brightview ready for harvest?

Action Step
