

Personal/Group Training Guide

Week of 12/16/18

THE SIMPLICITY OF CHRISTMAS

“Where’s the Joy?”

- (1) How do you define joy? Is there a difference between joy and happiness?
- (2) Read Luke 2:8-20. Discuss the range of emotions experienced by the shepherds.
- (3) Verses 10-11 share the good news of “great joy for all the people.” What (who) is the source of this joy? How does the reality of Christ’s birth impact you?
- (4) Read Luke 2:12-20 again. How do the shepherds respond to their encounter with Jesus? How do we respond, particularly during the Christmas season? Do you find it challenging to have joy regardless of life’s circumstances?
- (5) Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What was the joy set before Christ? What encouragement/hope do you find in this (verse 3)?
- (6) Read John 15:9-13. What message are these verses conveying to you? What is Jesus stating as the key for our joy being complete?
- (7) Read again Luke 2:16-20. Discuss the response of the shepherds to their encounter with Jesus. What should our response be?
- (8) Share with the group (or write down) some ways that you glorify and praise God?
- (9) The shepherds spread the word about Jesus. Share with the group a time when you shared the joy of Christ with someone else. How did they respond? How did it impact you?
- (10) We are to share joy with others through our words, and we can also help bring joy into the lives of others in other ways. How can you help share joy with others, especially during the Christmas season?