



# CLOSER LOOK 12.03.2023

## Message: The Spirit of Christmas | Speaker: Ps Joe Champion

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-44, Matthew 2:10, Luke 1:44, Psalm 16:4, Romans 14:17, Isaiah 61:1-7, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 5:29-32, 1 John 1:1-4

**Ice Breaker:** Share with the group one of your most JOYFUL memories. What about it brought joy?

What has joy looked like in the good/bad seasons of life?

## Message Notes

"JOY is seen in the countenance of your face; it is the reflection of your heart"

"Jesus did not manufacture life, he manifested it...and with JOY"

1. **Darkness is real**...so arise and shine (Is. 9:2)
2. **Death is real**...but we don't need to fear it (Heb 2:15, 9:27)
3. **Despair is real**...but joy is the indication of your hope!
4. **Discouragement is real**...(Act 16:25-22)

## What's Coming Up

- For more all that is coming up in the life of church, visit: <https://rock.celebration.church/events>

## Questions

1. What does it take for me to "arise and shine" in the midst of darkness?
2. What do I fear when it seems like dreams, jobs or situations have 'died?' What might fuel me in those moments?
3. In what ways have you ever faced despair? What helped lift you out of that?
4. What have you done when faced with discouragement? What helps restore joy?

## Prayer

Father, thank you that we can experience joy because of Jesus. Help us to walk in that joy daily and be an expression of your love through this Christmas Season. Amen