



# CHRISTMAS

at Celebration



# CLOSER LOOK: 12.12.2022

## CELEBRATION'S ADVENT: JOY

**SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 3:20; Matthew 2:10; Acts 14:22; Romans 5:3; 1 Peter 1:6-8; John. 16:20-22; Romans 8; 20-22; Psalm 51:10-18; John 6:66; Hebrews 12:2

**Ice Breaker:** What is something that brought you great JOY in 2022? Share the story surrounding that with the group...

### Message Notes:

- JOY = *an awareness of grace*
- We can often confuse Happiness & Joy...
  - HAPPINESS IS...**
    - Temporary, based on the 'now'
    - Based on your chance, circumstances
    - Emotional
    - Dissatisfied
  - JOY IS...**
    - FOREVER
    - A Choice
    - Spiritual / In Christ
    - Content
- Joy is **birthed** from a place of L.A.B.O.R or pain and suffering.
  - Loss
  - Anxiety
  - Bitterness
  - Offence
  - Rebellion
- We may weep and mourn now, but OUR HEART WILL REJOICE (John 16:20-22)

### What's Coming Up:

- **DECEMBER** - Acts of Celebration (\*remember to show kindness)
- **DECEMBER 14** - WAVE Night
- **DECEMBER 23-24** - Christmas Eve Services

### Questions:

1. Have you been living from a place of happiness or joy?
2. What LABOR do you face right now? What might JOY look like on the other side of that?
3. Which scripture reference can help provide HOPE for the JOY that is yet to be birthed from your circumstances?
4. Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:16, What helps you to "Rejoice ALWAYS...?" What gets in the way? What does that mean you need to START, STOP or CONTINUE?

### Prayer:

Father, thank you that YOUR JOY is eternal. It's not based on what I do or do not have, it's not based on what goes on around me, it's not based on my mood. Help me to walk through the valleys and give birth to joy in ALL circumstances. May the joy I chose be a light for my friends and family and bring you the glory this season, AMEN.

- **DEC 25** - Christmas Service on Demand
- **JAN 4-7** - Pursuit Week
- <https://rock.celebration.church/events>