

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 12-11-2022

### For You as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

**Quick Review** Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

**\*Opener Question or Activity:** As a child, what got you the most excited when you knew it was coming? What did you dream about having or doing?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Luke 2:8-20 - Joy

**Digging Deeper:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question)*

1. Read aloud Luke 2:8-20. In verse 10 the angel says he has good news of great joy. Why was the news great and why was it joyful? What are the ways we express joy for Jesus today? Let's review an old Psalm to find out!
2. Read aloud Psalm 150. The Hebrew word used there translated "praise" has a primary meaning "to shine" and can be used to mean rejoice. List the ideas in verses 1 and 2 that are causing the psalmist to "shine." Respond to how those truths have given you joy.
3. Verse 2 has the phrase, "Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!" or "His great magnificence." When was the last time you considered this personally and why should this stir joy in you?
4. In verses 3-5 there are a variety of instruments. What would these instruments equate to today and have you experienced the way instruments played for God's glory can lead you to joyful praise? Are there any you particularly love to hear or play?
5. Verse 4 also speaks of dancing as a way to express your joy before God. Note, David in 2 Samuel 6:14 as you answer this question. Where are the appropriate places and ways to dance for joy?
6. Praise and joy are such expressive words, so what are the easier ways for you to express joy...and what are your most difficult? How can you now look at expressing joy in praise and respond more in line with Psalm 150?

**Apply it today:** Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?