



Sunday, December 4th, 2016

Tidings of Joy: God of Joy

Christmas is such a joyful season but joy often seems hard to find. There are so many distractions that can steal our joy during the Christmas Season.

- *What about Christmas brings you the most joy?*
- *What seems to steal joy from you during this season?*

Joy is a mark of what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Read together from the following passages taking time to discover how God feels about joy.

- ***Psalm 4:6-7, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 30:4-5, Psalm 43:4***
- *What do each of these say about how God feels about joy?*
- *Read **Philippians 4:3**, what does Paul encourage us to do in this passage?*

God is holy and just, but he is also good and joyful. Jesus wants to create joy wherever he is.

- *Do you find that truth easy to embrace, or is it difficult, and why?*
- *What makes it hard for us to embrace both holiness and happiness together day by day?*
- *What attempts do we make to create our own joy and happiness?*
- *Where do our own efforts toward joy outside of the joy God gives lead us?*

The root of most of our lack of joy is centered around us pursuing other things (experiences, money, prestige, and power) to satisfy us. **Jesus is who brings satisfying joy!**

- *In what way can you say yes to Jesus so he can usher joy into your life?*