

The Heart Of Christmas: 3 of 3
“Joy”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 24, 2022

Big Idea: At the heart of Christmas, we find hope, peace, joy and love in Jesus

I Can Experience Joy When:

1. I Trust God's Plan For My Life

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly **avored!** The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be **afraid**, Mary, you have found **favor** with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; **his kingdom will never end.**"

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." **"I am the Lord's servant,"** Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:34-38 (NIV)

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." **Isaiah 7:14 (NASB)**

"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" **Romans 8:31-32 (NASB)**

2. I Renew My Faith

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation." **Luke 1:46-50 (NIV)**

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

3. I Receive His Gift Of Forgiveness

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will **save his people from their sins.**" All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**"--which means, "**God with us.**"

Matthew 1:21-23 (NIV)

"All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead." (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Ephesians 2:3-5 (NLT2)

"I pray that God, **the source of hope**, will fill you completely with **joy and peace because you trust in Him.** Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

How is your Joy?

This Christmas, I will:

- Trust God's plan for my life**
- Renew my faith with God**
- Accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord**

The Heart Of Christmas: 3 of 3
"Joy"

Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 24, 2022



Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

Open in Prayer:

➤ What thoughts from this week's message encourages me to live a life for Jesus?

Icebreaker: Share a favorite family Christmas tradition.

Read the Christmas Story in Luke 2:1-20 and discuss it.

Read The History of The Candy Cane by Laura Witcher Goldstein

<http://www.noelnoelnoel.com/trad/candycane.html>

Make a family memory - Peppermint Bark

Prep time: 30 mins

Cook time: 2 mins

Total time: 32 mins

Serves: 15

Ingredients:

- 24 oz of white chocolate chips
- 24 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 boxes of candy canes

Instructions:

1. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt semi-sweet chocolate chips in the microwave for 60 seconds, stir and repeat for an additional 60 seconds.
2. Place parchment paper on top of a cookie sheet and spread melted chocolate over top.
3. Place in refrigerator until set and hardened (approx. 20 mins).
4. Melt white chocolate chips the same way.
5. Unwrap candy canes and place in a large Ziploc bag and crush with a mallet.
6. Place 1 cup of crushed candy canes into the melted white chocolate.
7. Pour white chocolate on top of hardened dark chocolate and sprinkle with the leftover crushed candy cane.
8. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours until well set and hardened.
9. Take out and break into pieces. Enjoy!

Christmas Morning The Birth Of Jesus

Continue or maybe start a new tradition. Sometime on Christmas morning, read the story of the birth of Jesus. You can divide the verses as a family or have one person read them. You can also have family members act out the nativity. After reading the story, give thanks and end with prayer. Know your audience. This can be done before you open presents or afterwards-it doesn't matter. The idea is to bring worship into your Christmas morning experience.

Luke 2:1-20 (NLT2)

¹ At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them."

Merry Christmas!