

Sermon-based Growth Group Questions
“Advent Series: Joy”
Luke 2:8-20
December 3, 2023

Introductory Discussion: What from the sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling?

1. When Malachi, the last prophet, prophesied of the coming messiah and then there was 400 years of silence. What does that tell us about God’s timing?
2. Jesus was born and many witnessed it. What was the reaction of those who witnessed it (verse 20)?
3. It would be another 33 years before Jesus would fulfill his calling. Do you think the shepherds remembered and waited faithfully for the child to grow up?
 - a. How can we remain faithful while we wait for God’s timing?
4. What do you think it means that Mary treasured what was happening around her and meditated on it (verse 19)?
 - a. How do you think that helped her stay faithful while she waited for Jesus to fulfill his calling?
 - b. What does that tell us about how we can remain faithful?
 - c. Do you think meditating on and working out the implications of Jesus’s birth and God becoming flesh can bring you Joy?
5. What else about God can you dwell on that can help you find your Joy in the midst of trials?
 - a. How does it help to think of what God has done for all of us, but also for you personally?
 - b. How does it help to think about what God has promised?
 - c. How does it help to be thankful?