



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

Unwrapping Joy – One Holy Night

Luke 2:10-11, Matthew 1:23, Romans 15:13

December 13 & 14, 2025

LifeGroup Discussion Guide (Short Study)

Key Idea:

*Joy isn't something you manufacture - joy is Someone who came.
Joy enters your life not when circumstances improve,
but when you make room for Emmanuel - God with us.*

Warm-Up Question:

What's the most memorable Christmas gift you've ever received, and what made it meaningful?

Discovering the Text:

READ: Luke 2:10-11, Matthew 1:23, Romans 15:13

- What stands out to you about the angel's announcement of "great joy for all people"?
- How does the name *Emmanuel - God with us* change the way we understand joy?
- According to Romans 15:13, where does true joy come from?

Digging Deeper:

1. Joy Comes Close

Jesus came down to us - into real life, real humanity, real mess. He moved toward us when we could not move toward Him.

- Why is it easier to believe joy depends on a "perfect life" rather than a "present God"?
- In what ways have you seen God draw close to you in an imperfect season?

2. Joy Breaks In

Joy shows up in unexpected places, like to shepherds working the night shift. Joy breaks into real moments, not perfect ones.

- When has God surprised you by breaking into your life in an unexpected way?
- Why do you think God chose shepherds - ordinary, overlooked workers - as the first to hear the news?

3. Joy Belongs to You

The angel declared joy was for "all people," including the discouraged, the overwhelmed, and the forgotten.

- Which group mentioned in the message (discouraged, anxious, overwhelmed, etc.) do you most relate to right now?
- What keeps people from believing that joy truly belongs to them?

Applying It Today:

- Where in your life do you need God to restore joy - not happiness, but deep, steady joy?
- What "closed doors of the heart" might God be inviting you to open this Christmas? (Fear? Control? Disappointment? Busyness?)
- How can your group help each other make more room for "Emmanuel - God with us" in daily life?

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one intentional practice this week to "open joy from the inside out"...

1. Pause and Pray: Each morning, pray Romans 15:13 over your day.
2. Make Room: Set aside one moment to quietly invite Jesus into a specific area of your life where joy feels missing.
3. Share Joy: Like the shepherds, share one encouraging word or act of kindness with someone who needs it.