

# Joy in a World of Brokenness

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. . . .

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever." (Luke 1:46-48, 54, 55)

## Joy Reversed

<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)

<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." (Genesis 3:9, 10)

## Joy Revisited

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. . . . <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:10, 11, 20)

<sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. (Matthew 2:9-11)



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December 12, 2021



**Open:** What's something big or small that has brought you joy this past week?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 1:46-55

1. The narratives of Jesus' birth are laced with the theme of joy in a broken world. In Mary's song, where do you see mention of brokenness in our world? What are some present examples of brokenness that cause you to struggle with finding joy?
2. What do you see in Mary's words that give her reason to rejoice? How have you learned to fight for joy in Christ when joy is hard to find?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 2:8-20

3. The angel who appeared to the shepherds affirmed that the coming of Jesus would bring great joy to all people (v. 10). How do you reconcile this with the fact that not every person will end up being saved? (*See Revelation 5:9-10.*)
4. How does the response of the heavenly host (vv. 13-14) lead you to appreciate the significance of this event? What could you do to more fully sense the weight of Christ's coming?
5. The experience of the shepherds produced great joy in them (v. 20). While our emotional life will always fluctuate, what practices could serve to fuel the increase of your joy in Christ?

**Read & Discuss:** Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

6. According to verses 10-11, the wise men expressed their great joy in Jesus. How do you tend to express your joy in Jesus in similar ways? Are there any additional ways we could express our joy in Jesus?

**Apply:** Knowing how Jesus has served as our greatest source of joy, how might we encourage others who are feeling the brokenness of this world to find their joy in Him? Whom do you know who would benefit from your encouragement in this way over the next few weeks?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us overflow with joy in Him so the world around us experiences the hope and joy of Christ. Pray our message is clear and our lives are faithful examples of these truths.

**Luke 1:46-55**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
    “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>    and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
    For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
    from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
    and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and the rich he has sent away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
    to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” (ESV)

**Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (ESV)

**Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11**

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”. . . <sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (ESV)