

Things I Learned from Charlie Brown – Week 1

Main Text: Luke 2:1-12

Opening Question: *Why do we attempt to find our joy in temporal and/or tangible things?* What is the difference between finding happiness in “gifts” and finding joy?

1) The Christmas story is one of joy.

- How have you described “good news” to people? Think of a time you were able to share some good news? How did you feel, what was your excitement level? Compare your experience to your zeal for sharing the gospel. Is it the same? Why or why not?
- How would you describe the joy you have because of salvation in Jesus Christ? Is the joy of Christ visible in our lives through our words and actions? How can we maintain an attitude of Christ centered joy? (1 Pet. 1:8-9)

2) Christmas joy comes through involvement.

- How important is it to belong? Think of things you have done to belong. Any funny stories from your childhood?
- What is the significance of God’s good news being for “all the people” and what do we learn from the shepherds?
- If God calls people into the gospel story it seems logical that we should do the same. How can we invite people into God’s story? How does our joy play a part in our invitation?
- What joy comes from community? Share some personal examples from your experience in church? (Psalm 133:1)
- It appears that joy and community are meant to go “hand and hand.” Why do we tend to mess this up? Think of joy and community in the context of Romans 15:5-7. What words stick out and help define community.
- What does involvement look like in your own life? From Luke 2 we read that God involved Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and even Himself. What can we learn from this about the plan of God?
- How can people see the joy of “good news” in us?