

Review:

Lesson 1: Hope

Lesson 2: Peace

Joy **Psalm 98**

As opposed to mere happiness, which is all about current circumstances, the joy we celebrate in Christ is about the _____ . It is tied to all that God has done, is currently doing, and will do in the future.

Discussion 1. If your joy is tied to the entire timeline (as opposed to just the current circumstances), why is that such a better thing? Practically speaking, how is that different for you than mere happiness?

The joy of Advent comes from a perspective informed by what God is doing (and will do in the future) across every cultural line and in every community _____ the _____ .

Discussion 2. How does having our spiritual eyes opened to see what God is doing all around the world actually contribute to the depths of our joy? Why does that make such a difference in our outlook?

The joy which comes from God grows a love in our heart for him. It places a song within us and compels us to _____ to God, not as some kind of begrudged discipline, but as an almost spontaneous response.

Discussion 3. How does singing make you feel? Can you recall a time in your life when you could not help but to sing out loud? What, specifically, was it that so energized you?

The joy of advent comes from an understanding that Jesus' return will fix everything that is broken: relationships, families, nations, wars, famines, even _____ . "Joy to the World" is no mere Christmas platitude; it is a vision of everything wrong being made right.

Discussion 4. Christmas is the most difficult time of year for many people, especially those who have lost loved ones or are otherwise lonely. How does this lesson's understanding of "joy" apply to them? Why is joy in the Lord so much better than mere happiness?