

# ADVENT : JOY

Matthew 2 — Psalm 63

December 17, 2023

## WHAT WE LEARNED

Advent teaches us what our response to God's good news should be: joy and worship. Joy is a gladness and contentment in your heart no matter the circumstance, all because of who God is and what He has done. Joy comes by knowing Christ!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When Jesus was born, King Herod responded in fear and control, while the chief priests responded with indifference (not caring).**
  - In what ways are you resisting God's rule over you? Where do you struggle to release control and to trust God above yourself? How does repentance and God's forgiveness address this?
  - In what ways are you apathetic (not caring) towards God and His pursuing love? What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?
  - How are each of these responses rooted in sin? What do you need to confess?
- 2. The wise men responded to this good news differently: with joy and worship.**
  - What is joy? How is joy attached to who God is and His character?
  - How has God met our greatest need in Jesus? How does that shape you live in both good times and difficult circumstances? How does that shape how you view God?

## MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners— of whom I am chief."

- 1 Timothy 1:15

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Spend time this week praising God for the ways that He is committed to His people and the ways He has redeemed us. Pray together that God would bring new life and new hope to members of your family, your neighbors, and our city through the Gospel.

Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer for. Have someone to pray for that person’s request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.

Luke 2:52 says “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” We can thank God for this reminder that even though Jesus was fully God, Jesus chose to become like us. It also reminds us that because Jesus grew in wisdom and height and favor with God and man, that He invites children to do the same. James 1:5 says that if we lack wisdom, God gives it abundantly to those who ask. We can all be in prayer throughout this week for God’s wisdom and strength and favor, trusting that God answers because His Word says He will.

## **NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Follow us on Instagram for all of our Reality LA Kids news! Our handle is @RealityLAKids
- Stay connected on big events and announcements by joining the Reality LA Kids page on RLA Connect. You can find it at [reality.la/RLACKidsMinPage](http://reality.la/RLACKidsMinPage)
- Reach out anytime by emailing [kids@realityla.com](mailto:kids@realityla.com)