ADVENT 3: JOY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

VARIOUS TEXTS

U	Shepherds were poor, lower-class people in their society, despised by religious Jews because their work kept them away from many religious activities.
	Looking at Luke 2:8-14, why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first ones to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus?
	♥ How does God's choice of the Shepherds encourage you?
2	In Luke 2:10, the angel talks about "good news of great joy for all people." Look carefully at the three ways Jesus is described in verse 11. What are they?
	What would each of these have meant for poor Jewish shepherds under Roman occupation in the first century?
	Take time to consider what each description means to you today. In what areas of your life do you need good news, great joy, that comes for all people?
	Why is this announcement by the angel cause for joy for you and not just for the shepherds?
3	What progression do you see in Mary's responses in (Luke 1:29, 34, 38)?
	How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (v. 35-37)?
	Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning and finally to faith? What was the situation?
	♥ What do you think the angel's statement in (Luke 1:37) meant for Mary? What could it mean for you today?

4	In 1 kee	In 1 Peter 1:8-9, Peter calls believers to be full of unspeakable joy even through hardship. That's because God has an inheritance that he's keeping for you not from you. He will bring you into everything he's promised.		
	•	What are some of God's promises about your future?		
	•	How does thinking about his good plans aid your endurance and stir up joy?		
	Ŷ	What would intentional rejoicing look like for you this season?		
5	Not	te that the shepherds left glorifying and praising God (Luke 2:20).		
		What in your life or experience right now can you praise God for? What are you thankful for?		
		As we close up 2019 in Community Groups, take some time to think of how God has worked in your life t	this year and be ready to share!	
		Take time to ask for prayer for your particular holiday burdens.	PRAYER REQUESTS	
		Share a character trait of God that He has made known to you this year.		
		Consider people who have helped you spiritually and thank God for them		
		Share names of people you want to see come to know Christ and pray together for them.		
	•	As we consider the joy of Advent, what are things that make you rejoice in God your Savior?		
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