



## TURN UP THE JOY!

Big Idea: Christmas has nothing to do with the gifts we give to each other, but rather the ultimate gift that God gave to each of us. Christmas is about Jesus.

Luke 2:8-10 (KJV) <sup>8</sup> *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

- The birth of Jesus was meant to drive away our fears.
- Christ brings true joy that unites people who might never come together under other circumstances.

Luke 2:11-14 (KJV) <sup>11</sup> *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.*

- Our joy comes from our Savior, not our circumstances.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> *Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. <sup>13</sup> For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

- Joy provides the security needed when everything else crumbles beneath you.

## JOY IS A CHOICE!

Things we need to TURN DOWN:

- 1) Self-Pity
- 2) Fear
- 3) Distractions

Things we need to TURN UP!

- 1) Be Contagious
- 2) Trust
- 3) Relationships

***“The Son of God became the son of man, so that the sons of men can become sons of God.” — John Calvin***

### Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Galatians 5:22, 2 Cor. 1:24

Wednesday: Matthew 2

Friday: James 1:2-3

Tuesday: Matthew 1

Thursday: John 1:1-5

Saturday: Romans 14:17

Talk it Over:

1. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
2. Are there circumstances in your life that you are allowing to drain your joy?
3. **Does the knowledge of Jesus' birth and His life on earth change your view of the meaning of Christmas?**
4. What are some things you need to focus on turning down in your life?
5. What are some practical things you can TURN UP in your life?

### Pastor Loyd's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for persons from CCON that have surgeries scheduled in the next few months.

Tuesday: Pray for those people who are ill at home, in hospitals or in nursing homes.

Wednesday: Pray for each Sunday School teacher and the leader of each Small Group from our church.

Thursday: Pray for the pastoral staff and their spouses and families of CCON.

Friday: Pray for each support staff and the volunteers who serve our church so faithfully.

Saturday: Pray for Pastor Brian and our Worship Team in the church services this weekend.