

Jesus

Good News - Great Joy

Many of us have experienced the anguish of sin's deadly talons gripping at our very core.

- Symptoms: Troubled conscience, weight of guilt, innocence lost, joy vanquished. Ps. 32
- The level of quiet desperation we're capable of hiding below the surface is shocking.

The influence of Satan's "bruising" impact was quickly felt by humanity. *Genesis 3:15*

- The first eleven chapters of *Genesis* detail evil's impact on individuals and families.
- Severe judgment by flood - The Tower of Babel - Global depravity - Hope seems lost.

The story of rescue and redemption is woven throughout the entire Biblical narrative.

- God's unstoppable plan of redemption begins with the promise of a son. *Genesis 12:1-3*
- A group of lowly men were first to receive the hope-filled message of rescue. *Luke 2:8-11*
- The "*good news of great joy*" brings light into the darkness. *Matthew 4:16*
- John gives us a snapshot of the climax of the amazing story of redemption. *Rev. 7:9,10*

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Rate your ability to connect to the "good news/great joy" of Christmas. Does the "Good News" of the Gospel and Jesus' birth stir your heart? Evaluate why or why not.
2. Why do you think God delivered the message of Jesus' birth to lowly shepherds?
3. *Go Deeper: Jesus/the Light* (Psalm 18:28-29; 27:1; Isaiah 9:2; Matt. 4:16-17; 5:14-16; 17:1-2; John 1:1-5; 3:16-21; 8:12; 12:34-36; 2 Cor. 4:5-7; Ephesians 5:1-14; 1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-11; Rev. 22:3-7)
4. *Go Deeper: "Good News"* (Isaiah 52:7; 61:1-7; Luke 1:18-25; 2:1-14; Acts 13:26-33; Romans 15:14-22; 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 1:17-19; 3:5-8; 2Cor. 4:3-4; Ephesians 1:12-14; Colossians 1:3-6; 1 Peter 1:24-25)
5. **Bridge-Crossing:** Ask God to give you a divine appointment this week. Ask Him to guide you to someone who needs you to deliver "Light" and "Good News" to them.
6. It's not too late to prioritize your celebration of Jesus and His birth. Don't let it become all about the traditions of men. Worship Jesus and point others to Him.

Flash Mob - Join the Story!