

JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING!

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

Zechariah 9:9; Deuteronomy 12:7; 1 Chronicles 16:10; Nehemiah 12:43; Psalm 13:5; 35:9; Habakkuk 3:18; John 16:22; Romans 5:11; Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 4:13; Revelation 19:7, 16

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'

BIG IDEAS

- We rejoice in the King's grace.
- We rejoice in the King's humility.
- We rejoice that the King is the Savior.

BIBLE PASSAGE: LUKE 2:1-21

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in a stable. His parents laid him in a manger and the angels rejoiced. Angels appeared to shepherds nearby to tell them the good news. God's people rejoiced at the Messiah's coming and they rejoice that the King is returning.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!

BIG AIMS



Every student should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every student should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every student should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every student should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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The coming of the King is good news.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy..."

- Before Jesus came to the earth, there was no way for people to be reconciled to God. Sin separated man from God, causing a great chasm that could only be eliminated by a perfect sacrifice. The people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah because it meant salvation for them.
- When Jesus came to the earth, born as a baby in a manger, the angels rejoiced and brought the good news to shepherds who were nearby. The angels' declaration that Jesus' birth was good news was true for all people, not just the shepherds. Jesus' coming meant that salvation was coming to God's people.

The King brings joy to His people.

"...Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- When Jesus was born, the people who had longed for and waited for His coming rejoiced. His birth brought joy to God's people because they knew He was their Savior. They felt joy that they were no longer without hope of being reconciled to God.
- The King's second coming brings joy to His people because it means He will return and make all things new again. When the King returns again, He will bring with Him a new heaven and earth and sin will no longer reign on the earth. This is great news to God's people who long for the King to reign on earth as He does in Heaven.

The King brings new life.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- The announcement of Jesus' birth meant that there would be a way for people to have their sins forgiven them. His birth meant that God had sent the Savior to the world to redeem His people. People had longed for this and waited for this salvation to come and now it had.
- Today, God's people look back and rejoice that the King came, and they look forward to His return when sin no longer rules this earth. The King's first coming meant that sin was defeated and His second coming ushers in eternal life free from death, sorrow, and sin.

JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

BIG IDEA #1: WE REJOICE IN THE KING'S GRACE.¹

[THIS]

Luke 2:8-21 gives us some details about those who first heard the news of Jesus' birth. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in a stable. After His birth, angels appeared to shepherds who were tending their flocks in a field nearby. God chose to declare the good news of the birth of the Messiah to the lowliest of people—shepherds. By choosing shepherds to proclaim the birth of the Savior to, He revealed His gracious plan to send salvation to everyone. God's grace is undeserving by everyone and His choice of shepherds as the first people to hear this news is an example of how He bestows grace upon all of mankind when we least deserve it. The shepherds rejoiced at the news of Jesus' birth. They experienced awe and wonder that they were seeing the Messiah whose birth had been prophesied hundreds of years before.

[THEREFORE]

How does God coming to shepherds reflect the grace we have been shown?

2 Samuel 7:8 gives us an idea of how shepherds were seen in King David's day. David was a shepherd and seen as lowly because of it. God's decision to reveal to shepherds the birth of Jesus shows us His grace. The shepherds would have been the last people to be chosen by man's standards, yet God chose them. We all are like the shepherds in that we do not deserve the gift of salvation, yet God chose to give it to us through Jesus.

Why are you personally undeserving of God's grace?

Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10 teach us that there is no righteous or sinless person on the earth. Because of this, we are all undeserving of God's grace. We all sin against Him and rebel against Him. We reject Him and His Lordship over our lives. We are like the lowly shepherds, undeserving of the good news of great joy that a Savior has come, yet God showers us with His grace.

[THIS]

Luke 2: 15-20 tells us that the shepherds rejoiced at the sight of baby Jesus. They left Bethlehem praising God that the Messiah had come and they had seen Him. God's people today rejoice that the Messiah came and the King is coming again. We rejoice at God's grace so kindly poured upon us that offers us salvation through Jesus and gives us eternal life. This season, we continue to rejoice in the King's grace. Because Jesus came to the earth, we can be redeemed from our sinful natures. We do nothing to deserve this, yet God shows grace to us while we are sinners. God's people rejoice that the King is gracious to us.

[THEREFORE]

Christmas is almost here! What are some of the things competing for your heart that distract you from rejoicing in Jesus above all else?

Often, we can focus on the things of this world and it can keep us from truly rejoicing in Jesus' coming. Our focus on the things of this world can lead to worry and anxiety. 1 Peter 5:7 should serve as a reminder that our anxiety and worry can distract us from rejoicing, but we can cast all of our cares on Christ. When we turn our eyes away from Christ and what He has done for us, we can become ensnared with the things of the world and lose our joy.

1. Luke 2:1-7: God showed grace to the world by sending Jesus as the Savior of the world.

BIG IDEA #2: WE REJOICE IN THE KING'S HUMILITY.²**[THIS]**

Jesus is fully God. He is one of the three persons of God. This means that He has always been, holds all power, and is full of all glory. He left Heaven to come to the earth so that He could pay our sin debt. Jesus humbled Himself and became like us. He lowered Himself to our level and entered the world through the womb of His mother. Being born as a baby meant that Jesus humbled Himself to be cared for by humans, placing Himself in a position of need to the very beings He created. Jesus came that He might be like us and live the perfect life that we could never live. He faced the things we face, felt the things we feel, and did it all without sinning. He became the perfect sacrifice for us and revealed that He is the true King full of grace and humility. There is no other like Him. Other kings revel in their high position, demand the service of others on their behalf, and rule from a position of honor. Jesus lowered Himself and counted His deity as nothing compared to providing salvation to us.

[THEREFORE]**How is Jesus' birth an example of His humility?**

Philippians 2:5-11 teaches us that Jesus is the God of the universe, yet He lowered Himself to save us. 2 Corinthians 8:9 reminds us that Jesus gave up all in order to rescue us. He humbled Himself on our behalf. He chose to be born just as we are that He might fully be like us and save us from our sin. His birth is an incredible example of humility.

Why is embracing humility such a difficult thing for us?

Galatians 6:3 speaks to having a right view of ourselves. This implies that our natural bent is to think more highly of ourselves than we should. Philippians 2:3 also reminds us to view ourselves rightly and to actually humble ourselves before others. Humility can be difficult for us because we do love ourselves naturally because of our sin natures.

[THIS]

Because of Jesus' birth we can rejoice. We have joy because He lowered Himself to be like us in order to save us. He is a true and noble King. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We rejoice in His humility because it means life for us. His humility gives us spiritual life on earth and it enables us to have eternal life with Him. We rejoice that He came first in humility and that He's coming again in glory. Our lives reveal we rejoice in His humility as we seek to be like Him. When we humble ourselves, we reveal that we find joy in humility and we understand that we are not greater than our King. Instead, we seek to be like Him by setting aside ourselves to share His truth with others. We live for Him and serve others just as He did when He came to the earth.

[THEREFORE]**How can meditating on and thinking about Christ's humility help cultivate a heart of humility within us?**

Denying ourselves and following Jesus requires humility. Matthew 16:24 teaches us that if we are going to follow Jesus, we must take up our cross and deny ourselves. In order to set aside ourselves, we must humble ourselves just as Jesus did when He came to the earth. Philippians 2:3-11 teaches us how to be humble like Christ is.

Why does the King's humility cause us to rejoice?

We rejoice in Jesus' humility because it means we have salvation. Philippians 2:8 reminds us that Jesus lowered Himself and because of His humility we can be reconciled to God. We have forgiveness for our sin because of Jesus' humility. This is cause to rejoice in the King of Heaven who has saved sinners from their sin.

2. Luke 2:12: Jesus, the King of the world, was born as a baby in a stable and laid in a manger with animals. He humbled Himself to become our Savior.

JESUS FOLLOWERS REJOICE IN THE KING

BIG IDEA #3: WE REJOICE THAT THE KING IS THE SAVIOR.³

[THIS]

In Luke 2:1-21, the angels and shepherds rejoiced that salvation had come through Jesus. God's people rejoiced that He had fulfilled His promise by sending His Son to be our Savior. The angels sang and the shepherd were in awe that God Himself had come to the earth bringing with Him salvation for all those who believe. God's people had long waited for the day salvation would come. They had believed God's promises to rescue them by sending the Savior. For hundreds of years, they had heard and hoped in the promise of the coming Messiah. Their hearts rejoiced that He had come because it meant that they were no longer hopeless. Instead, they could be saved from their sin and no longer owe their sin debt. They could be reconciled to God.

[THEREFORE]

Read Luke 2:8-20. Why is this "good news of great joy"?

The angels rejoiced that God had sent the Savior to the world. The shepherd rejoiced and glorified God at the birth of the Savior. We can and should rejoice as the shepherds did at the birth of Jesus and the promise of His return. The fact that Jesus brought salvation is great news to us all because it means we can have new life here on earth and eternal life with God when our life on this earth ends.

When you think about this news, is it "great joy" to you today (why or why not)?

Psalm 13:5 reminds us that there is great rejoicing in our salvation. The birth of the Messiah should bring us great joy because it means salvation has come to the world. We may not rejoice in this news if we are burdened with the things of this world leading us to focus on temporal things instead of eternal things.

[THIS]

Jesus' birth meant salvation had come. Jesus was born in a stable where lambs would have been kept. Angels appeared to shepherds who tended to flocks of sheep and lambs. Jesus is the Savior because He is the Lamb of God. His perfect life and death on the cross meant forgiveness was and is available to those who believe. When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed the world that He had conquered death and hell. His birth preceded this defeat of death and hell. Because He was born, people could have new life. We rejoice in this news as we reflect upon His birth and look toward His second coming. We rejoice by reminding ourselves of this great joy and the freedom we now have because of His birth. We rejoice by sharing with others the good news that His birth is. This season as we rejoice in His birth, we can tell others of the salvation available because the Savior came to the world.

[THEREFORE]

Luke says that this news of great joy is for "all people." Who is someone you can share this good news about Jesus birth with this week?

In Ephesians 2:8-9 we see that our salvation is from God and not anything we do. This gift of God is the birth of His Son and His Son's death on the cross. As we seek to share this good news with others, we can point them to the birth of Jesus and what it truly means. 2 Corinthians 5:21 also reminds us that Jesus took on our sin to save us. He did this by first becoming like us when He was born into the world. We can share this news with others by helping them see that Jesus' birth meant He would become our sacrifice.

What are some ways you can rejoice in your salvation this Advent season?

When we reflect upon the birth of Christ, our hearts should feel joy that we are no longer slaves to our sin. Romans 5:11 and 15:13 remind us to rejoice in the salvation that God has given us. As we remind ourselves of this salvation, we should praise God with our obedience to His commands, our voices lifted in praise to Him, and our service to Him and others. When we live lives that seek His glory, we reveal hearts that rejoice in His salvation.

3. Luke 2:11: Jesus came as our Savior and this is great cause for rejoicing among God's people.