# Behold the God Who Inspires Unexpected Joy

Wyatt Martin // December 12, 2021 Luke 2:10; Matthew 5:11-12; Philippians 4:10-13

# Big Idea: Christmas reveals the God who inspires unexpected joy.

## Question: What is one of the happiest memories you have?

"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." **Luke 2:10** 

Joy from God is a <u>deep</u> and <u>abiding</u> recognition of God's <u>goodness</u> and <u>presence</u>.

Joy from God comes in <u>unexpected</u> circumstances.

## Myth #1: I'll have a life of joy when this hard season is finally over.

Paul: I am "...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing..." 2 Corinthians 6:10

#### Matthew 5:11-12a

#### Myth #2: I'll have a life of joy when I finally get what I want.

## Philippians 4:10-13

Joy is found by <u>beholding God's presence</u> in your life.

### Sermon questions

In our *Behold* series, we are celebrating the birth of Christ by slowing down enough to stop and Behold him—to notice and pay attention to the way that God is working in quiet, humble, and **unexpected** ways—just like he was Christmas morning when the God of the universe entered our broken world as a baby born in a manger to two unmarried teenagers without status or power. This Sunday we will *Behold the God who Inspires Unexpected Joy,* and our texts will be Luke 2:10; Matthew 5:11-12; and Philippians 4:10-13.

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

## Read Luke 2:10; Matthew 5:11-12; Philippians 4:10-13

1. What are some of the things that bring you the most joy in life?

2. We defined God's Joy as "A deep and abiding recognition of God's goodness and presence." How well does this definition match with the way you seek joy in your everyday life? 3. Read **2** Corinthians 6:3-10. How do you make sense of the concept of being "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (vs.10)? Have you ever experienced this?

4. What are some ways that you have been enticed by either of the "myths" from today's message? How can you **grow** in seeking joy through beholding the goodness and presence of God? (Details on the "myths" can be found in the message notes in the ACC App or at alderwood.cc/messages.)

5. Often **going** towards others in the name of Jesus is one of the ways we experience the joy of God's presence with us. When, if ever, have you experienced this in your life?



