

Group Questions- Home for Christmas Week 2

12/10/23 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- Last week we asked what your favorite carol was. This week, what is your least favorite Christmas song – not just a carol?
- Do you have a memory or a story of a nativity/Christmas play? Funny, meaningful etc? Share it.

Into the Bible Questions:

- What stood out, was interesting or something you learned from the teaching?
- In what ways has the busyness of the Christmas season made you feel weary and burdened?
- **Listen:** to the song “O Come All Ye Faithful”. If someone has a favorite version, play that one!
- Pastor Kirby asked the question: “If I’m struggling with feeling joyful and triumphant, others probably are too. If that’s the case, who is Jesus calling?” We saw that Jesus calls...
 - The weary and the burdened.
 - Sinners
- **READ:** Matthew 11:28, Matthew 9:12-13, and 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Is there a place in your life today that you need Jesus to comfort and restore you? Will you share it?
- Jesus says when we accept his forgiveness and salvation, we become a “new creation” because now the Holy Spirit of God is in our lives.
- This song calls us “faithful”, “joyful” and “triumphant”. Which one of these descriptions do you find difficult to relate to? Which one connects with you the most?
- **Read: Isaiah 43:1-3a** – As you read this, pay attention to words, themes or ideas that stick out to you. Allow them to encourage your faith
- Thinking of those words, themes or ideas; what were the ones that stood out to you?
- Pastor Kirby said “Happiness depends on happenings, but joy depends on Jesus.” What is your response to that?
- **READ:** Luke 2:10-11
- What types of circumstances most often cause you to question your faith?
- **READ:** Isaiah 9:6-7
- This is triumph. Where do you need God to be triumphant in your life?

Application Questions:

- Tell God where in life you feel weary and burdened. Ask for His comfort and restoration.
- Ask God to continue strengthening your faith in Him. Share with Him the ways you may be struggling in your faith.
- Tell God what’s robbing you of your joy. Ask Him to help you regain your joy.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

Advent 2023: Home for Christmas

Week 2: O come, all ye faithful

“When they found her christmas mornin' at the scene of the attack
There were hoof prints on her forehead and incriminatin' claus marks on her back”

- Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer

“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!”

Question: If we're struggling with feeling triumphant, I wonder then who it is that Jesus calls?

Who does Jesus call?

1. Jesus calls the weary and the burdened.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

2. Jesus calls the sinners

Matthew 9:12-13

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new** creation has come: The old has gone, the **new** is here!

What is it that Jesus helps us to become?

1. **Jesus helps us become more faithful.**

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Isaiah 43:1-3a

¹ But now, this is what the Lord says—

- he who created you, Jacob,
- he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

2. Jesus helps us become more joyful.

Galatians 5 – Fruits of the Spirit

Happiness depends on happenings, but joy depends on Jesus.

Luke 2:10-11

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will **cause great joy** for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been **born to you**; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

3. Jesus helps us to become more triumphant.

Question: How big is your God? How big is Christ in your life?

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.