



<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NIV)

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:10 (NIV)

### **What is my algorithm for happiness?**

- **More often, our happiness algorithm is made up of "whens" and "ifs."**
- **Our happiness is likely dependent on elements that are outside our control.**

### **What do I want to determine my happiness?**

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Luke 24:50-53 (NIV)



CHRISTMAS BIG IDEA:

**Great joy is found when we worship Jesus.**

**Joy sustains us when we fix our eyes on Jesus—the joy of our salvation.**

## MY NOTES



### STAY CONNECTED:

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### TEACHING SUMMARY:

Our happiness is the result of something. Humanity is on the hunt for happiness. This need to be happy drives most of what we think, do, or say. We search for happiness in relationships, achievements, possessions, or even in self-actualization—only to discover that the happiness is temporary.

The announcement that Luke records the angels proclaiming to the shepherds in the fields at night was an announcement for the happy hungry world: "Jesus is the good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

God has a solution for our constant hunt for happiness or joy (in scripture, joy and happiness are presented as the same thing). God's solution is the perfect, never-ending source for our happiness. God gives a gift to bring us great joy through Jesus, the Savior, the Lord.

### TALK-IT-OVER:

Where do you look for joy? Why do you there?

What stops you from looking to Jesus first for joy?

Who in your life needs to experience the joy of Jesus?

What is one next step you can take to share joy with your loved ones?

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1: Isaiah 7:14

Day 2: Isaiah 9:6-7

Day 3: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Day 4: Isaiah 11:1-2

Day 5: Micah 5:2

Day 6: Matthew 2:1-12