



It's Christmas...

It's Christmas – So Laugh – Message 1

Announcements

The Other Side: Getting Through Life's Storms // Small Group Members, how many of you know people who struggle with adversity, fear, insecurity, anxiety, and doubt? Here's your chance to step out and host a group for five short weeks with your family, friends, neighbors or co-workers. You can help change their lives forever. When you email smallgroups@churchoftheking.com, we will contact you to let you know your next step.

Warm-up

Tell the group one of your favorite jokes (clean ☺).

Word and Application

Today we are going to talk about how laughter is one of God's greatest gifts and the importance of laughter. Laughter is the overflow of a heart filled with joy. It is easy to get so busy we "write off" joy as something that is difficult or impossible to experience daily. We will discuss how joy is possible for everyone since it is not dependent upon positive or negative circumstances. It is a choice we can make no matter what circumstance we face on a daily basis.

Read Proverbs 17:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, Galatians 5:22

Why do you think our society ignores biblical wisdom about being joyous? How different would our society look if the media only aired positive and uplifting news, movies, and events?

How do you choose joy?

We have to learn to choose to focus on what only God can do, the joy only He can bring. Lets look at three ways to focus on things that result in joy.

1. Choose to hear the Good News

The Good News is that God has invited you to have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. God is calling you personally. The Creator and Father in Heaven loves you so much that He moved heaven and earth to be with you.

Read Luke 2:10 and Romans 1:16.

Describe the first time you heard the *good news* of the gospel. How life changing is it to realize the unconditional love that we all crave is satisfied in the relationship with our Father God?

2. Joy continues when you do what God says

So many people feel stuck in a dark, cold place. They know God wants their trust but they don't respond. God doesn't ask for obedience for His benefit, rather it is for our benefit. Obedience to God results in joy no matter what the situation may appear.

Read Luke 2:15

Share an experience where you knew God gave you direction through a situation where your obedience was life changing.

3. Joy multiplies when you choose to tell someone else

There's an almost indescribable burst of joy that happens when you share with someone else the *good news* of what God has done in your life. You do this because you care about them; you want them to experience the same freedom, peace and joy you have.

Read Luke 2:17 and Psalm 107:22.

Explain how the best gift we can give to someone for Christmas this year is the *good news* of what Jesus has done in your life. Share a time you shared your own story with someone.

Take a moment to write your personal testimony in three simple statements:

1. How my life was before I met Christ.
2. How I came to hear the good news of Christ.
3. How my life has been since I came to trust Jesus.

Now ask the Holy Spirit for the opportunity to share your story. Be open and ready this Christmas season to share the *good news*.

Prayer

Thank God to for all He has done for us to have joy available to us at all times. Ask God to help us all to become more aware of the daily choices we can make to choose joy. Ask the Lord to put people in our paths this week whose hearts are open to hear our Good News so we can point them to Jesus. Pray for specific needs of the group.