

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Midnight Clear

Week of December 2, 2018

Week 2: Good News of Great Joy (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Luke 2:2b-12

1. How well are you coping with all the bad news in our world? Do you ever find yourself feeling overwhelmed by it all?
2. In *Luke 2:10*, an angel of the Lord announces, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." In the next verse the angel describes this good news (or gospel): "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (v. 11). In practical terms, how is this gospel bringing you great joy these days? Do you find yourself wanting more of that joy?
3. As Jeff pointed out, the news that "a Savior has been born to you" implies that we need rescuing. We're drowning in sin. What thoughts or emotions does this stir in you?
4. The term "the Lord" appears twice in Luke 2:9: a reference to "an angel of the Lord" and "the glory of the Lord." In both cases, "the Lord" refers to God. The same is true in verse 11, where the angel refers to the Savior born to us as "the Lord." How do you respond to this revelation that the one born in Bethlehem is God?
5. The angel's reference to Jesus as the Messiah reminds us that He is the promised fulfillment that humanity had been waiting for since our beginning. Does knowing this heighten your sense of joy at His arrival? Why or why not?
6. What aspect of Jeff's lifeguard analogy resonated most with you? Was it that Jesus saw you drowning? Was it the "big splash" Jesus made when he jumped into our world to rescue us? Perhaps it was how we must stop trying to save ourselves and let Christ do the saving. Or maybe it's how Jesus "drowned" to save us. Take a moment to elaborate on your answer.

Pray together that you would become increasingly mindful of the gospel and that it would cause you to overflow with great joy.