

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series: Good News of Great Joy**

The theme of joy comes up over and over again in the Christmas story. People experienced joy in times of darkness, uncertainty, and challenges back then, and we can too still today. Join us this Advent as we explore the moments of deep joy found throughout the story of Christmas in Luke and discover ways to cultivate that joy today. In this series, we don't just want to talk about joy, we actually want to practice experiencing joy in community together. Make plans to join us for one of the many ways we hope to experience the joy of Christmas this year!

**Message description:**

Joy shows up for Mary in the meeting of the mothers. After her visit from the angel Gabriel, Mary retreats to the hill country to find courage and comfort with her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also expecting. Scripture says Elizabeth's child leapt for joy at the presence of Mary, the mother of the lord. In times of uncertainty, fear, and confusion, joy can be found in the people we turn to; the ones who rejoice with us, bless us, encourage us, and support us. **Good relationships help us find joy in life.** This is how we were created, what we were meant for. To find joy in a community of relationships of shared life together. You are worthy of such love and belonging!

**Key Scriptures**

*Luke 1:26-45*

## Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Where are you finding joy right now?
2. Where did you see joy play out in the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth? What is so powerful about the meeting of these mothers?
3. What relationships in your life bring you joy?
4. At the end of the teaching, Rachel asked these questions for personal reflection. As we continue in this Advent season, are you:
  - a. Investing in good, healthy relationships in your life?
  - b. Setting good boundaries?
  - c. Showing up for others in healthy ways?
  - d. Are you open to let people love you the way you deserve to be loved and respected?

Respond to any of the above. If you answered no, how can we help you make changes to cultivate healthier relationships?

5. How can this group help you expect to experience God, receive gifts with joy, and share the good news this Advent?

## Going Deeper:

*In her teaching, Rachel shared the following quote from "1000 hours outside."*



- What does this mean to you?
- What do you think it means that building community takes our tender hearts and precious time?
- Have you ever felt like real community just happened for the lucky few, and that didn't include you?

**Read Romans 12:9-21**, known as the marks of true Christians. What sticks out to you in this passage about what it means to be community together? How do you see Revolution living out the ideals of this passage? How can we improve?