

Week 3: Joyful Waters

Series: Changed in the Waiting

Scripture: Isaiah 12

Advent invites us to experience _____ even in the times of _____.

God's kingdom is not only _____ one day but also already at work here and _____.

God's gift of joy is already at work—we just have to be _____ to _____ it.

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Hope, built on the _____ of God's love, should give us a joy that can't be _____.

The joy of _____.

- God's salvation is comparable to a well of water—it is a _____ and _____ source, a gift to all who have it.

Joy can be _____ in the _____.

- We are invited to _____ in making and experiencing joy, even in our waiting.

We can truly engage and experience the joy of a _____ God now. God's kingdom isn't _____ to the future.

Start talking.

- Talk about what brings you joy. Share what you think the distinction is between happiness and joy and how we are impacted deeply by joy.
- How would you share good news with a loved one?

Start thinking. Read Isaiah 12

- How does this song of deliverance from Assyria compare with the way Israel celebrated God's deliverance from Egypt?
- How deeply does Israel respond to the Lord's salvation in vv1-3? Verses 4-6?
- What is the real deliverance - of which Assyria is only an example - that God has in view here? What is the ultimate reason for Israel's joy?

Start sharing.

- Where does joy come from?
- What does it mean if we do not have joy?
- Do we ever limit ourselves from feeling joy? Does the idea of feeling joy make you nervous or hesitant in any way?
- How can we lean into God's joy?
- What is the purpose of joy? What responsibility comes with having joy?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, your Word says that, though there may be sorrow and hardship through the night, joy comes with the morning. Thank you for your many great gifts. We lift up those who are desperate for your joy. May the night be short and the morning bring joy that bursts out like a beautiful sunrise for them. Give us your joy, God. Give us more gratitude. As we wait for you and anticipate the celebration of Jesus's birth, provide opportunities for us to share your joy with others. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

- We can also strengthen our receptivity to joy by practicing gratitude. Ask everyone who is willing to share three things they are grateful for: a person, an experience, and an object or material item. Thank God for providing for you.