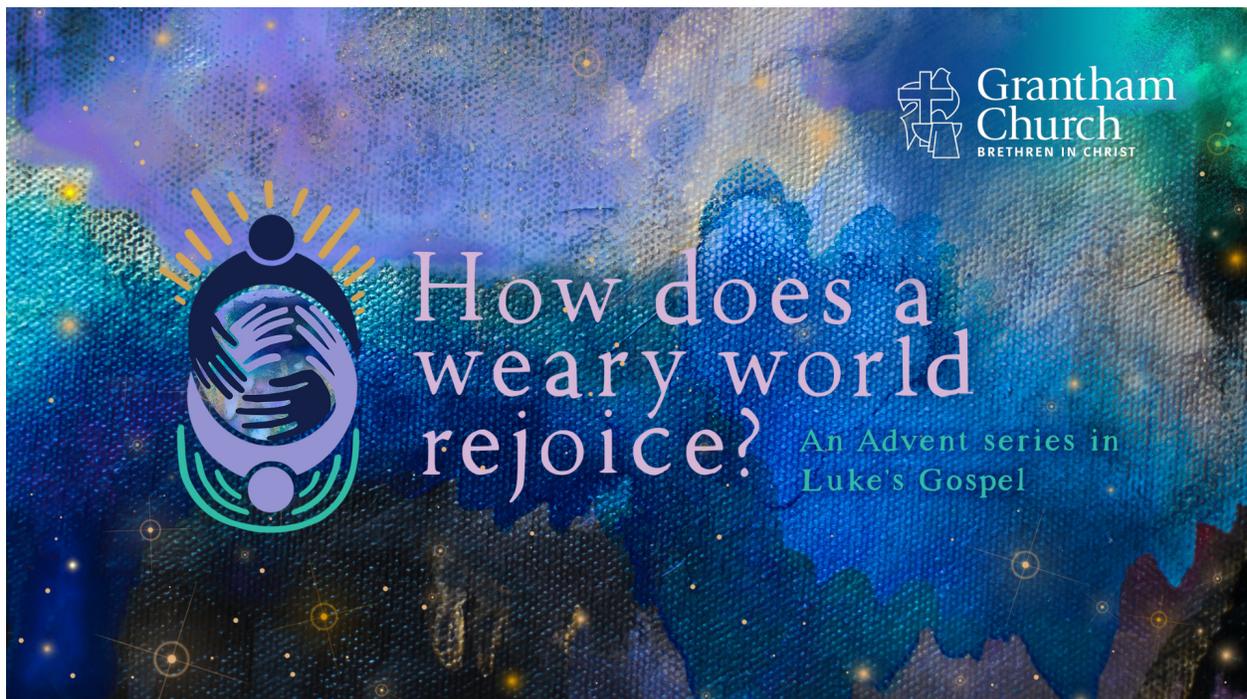


We Find Joy in Connection
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 10th, 2023



Sermon Title: We Find Joy in Connection

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:13; Luke 1:24-45; 2 John 1:12

Sermon Focus: Despite our weariness, God makes it possible for us to experience joy. And while joy can be experienced alone, it is in community and connection that our joy expands and is made complete. After Elizabeth learned that she would have a child in her old age, she hides her joy until Mary comes and shares her own good news. That is when Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, her joy goes public, and she is comforted. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to find joy in connection.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:24-45 together. Consider what Elizabeth and Mary's meeting would have been like for them. How would this have been encouraging for the both of them? Also, since Elizabeth had been in seclusion for 5 months, did you notice how her joy was fully expressed with Mary's arrival? What does this tell us about our experience of joy and being comforted in connection with others?
2. Pastor David showed a video clip from the movie, *Cast Away*. Did you notice that Chuck was so overjoyed he had created fire that he wanted to tell someone about it? He was announcing it to the uninhabited island and across the ocean! Have you ever experienced joy like this but your disconnect from others kept you from sharing it? How does this highlight our need for human connection?
3. Like Elizabeth in the Gospel of Luke, has your joy been buried or hidden away? Have you been reluctant to rejoice and be joyful regarding the good things God has done/is doing in your life? If so, please share why with your group.
4. Do you feel that you have a healthy connection with God right now? What do you think a healthy "joyful" connection with God looks like?
5. Do you feel that you have a healthy connection with others? What do you think a healthy connection with others looks like? Are you sharing and experiencing joy with other disciples in the church? Give some examples of what this looks like.
6. The prophet Jeremiah spoke the word of the Lord about his new covenant: "I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing" (Jeremiah 31:13). How have you experienced this in your own life? Are you at a place right now where you need to trust in this promise of God?
7. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul writes: "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."
Is there someone you know that God is putting on your heart to share comfort this Advent-Christmas? Who is it? What can you do? Pray for them as a group and ask God to guide you in sharing the comfort that you have been given.