



# JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study*



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# ***How to Use This Mini Bible Study***

*Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!*

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*  
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*  
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: [www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html).

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





# Lesson 1:

## JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.  
He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with  
you,  
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.  
Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;  
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much  
to you.  
I will bend Judah as I bend my bow  
and fill it with Ephraim.  
I will rouse your sons, Zion,*

*against your sons, Greece,  
and make you like a warrior's sword.  
Then the Lord will appear over them;  
his arrow will flash like lightning.  
The Sovereign Lord will sound the trumpet;  
he will march in the storms of the south,  
and the Lord Almighty will shield them.  
They will destroy  
and overcome with slingstones.  
They will drink and roar as with wine;  
they will be full like a bowl  
used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.  
The Lord their God will save his people on that day  
as a shepherd saves his flock.  
They will sparkle in his land  
like jewels in a crown.  
How attractive and beautiful they will be!  
Grain will make the young men thrive,  
and new wine the young women.*

*Zechariah 9:9-17*



**Read the passage above. What does it reveal about rejoicing?**



***What do these verses teach us about the promised king that is cause for rejoicing?***



***How does the promise of a hopeful future bring joy?***



***What is bringing you joy in life right now?***



***From [www.gotquestions.org/joy-happiness.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/joy-happiness.html): “If a person is joyful, then he or she is happy. There’s no such thing as glum joy. We cannot drain joy of emotion and still call it ‘joy.’ When God’s Spirit gives us joy, then we are happy people. Christians should be joyful; happiness should characterize our everyday lives.”***

***Would people who know you or spend time with you describe you as joyful? If yes, what would you say is the basis for that joy?***



***If joy is not evident in your life, pour your heart out to God. Ask Him to reveal what is keeping you from rejoicing. As you reflect on this passage again, write down at least one character trait or promise of God that you can rejoice about today.***



## *Lesson 2:* **JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne*

*and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.*

*Isaiah 9:6-7*



***Read the passage above. What do these verses reveal about the character and actions of the promised Messiah?***



***Which of these names and characteristics of Jesus is most meaningful to you right now?***



***What is the connection between God's character and joy in the life of a believer?***





***How does reflecting on the character of God and the promised Messiah during Christmas bring joy to your celebration?***



***Which character trait of God will you meditate on and make the center of your Christmas celebration this year?***



# Lesson 3:

## JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord;  
It shall rejoice in His salvation.*

*Psalm 35:9 (NKJV)*



***Read the verse above. What do we learn about joy from this verse?***



***Why is joy important to be communicated and displayed?***



***Think of a time when your soul was joyful in the Lord. What were the circumstances that led to that?***



***How does joy (or lack of it) express faith (or lack of it)?***



***For what specifically are you rejoicing right now?***



# Lesson 4:

## JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

*Luke 2:-8-18*



**Read the verses above. What did the angel proclaim that caused great joy?**



***How did the shepherds respond to the angels' message?***



***Reflecting on the shepherds' response to the angels, what is the connection between joy and action?***



***Think about your present circumstances and actions. What do your actions reveal about your joy?***



***What do your actions reveal about your heart? Do they reveal a heart of joy?  
In what areas of your life is God calling you to cultivate and live out joy?***



# Lesson 5: JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having*

*been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

*Matthew 2:10-12*



***Read the above passage. What does it reveal about joy? What can we learn from the response of the wise men?***





***What is the relationship between joy and worship?***



***What practical things do you do to rejoice in the story and realities of the birth of Jesus? How do you keep it from becoming casual or rote?***



***Spend some time rejoicing in and worshiping God for who is and what He has done: for His coming to earth and for what He has done in your personal life.***



# *Lesson 6:* **JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

*This is what the Lord says:*

*“Sing with joy for Jacob;  
shout for the foremost of the nations.  
Make your praises heard, and say,  
‘Lord, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.’  
See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth.  
Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
expectant mothers and women in labor;  
a great throng will return.  
They will come with weeping;  
they will pray as I bring them back.  
I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel’s father,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.*

*“Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;  
proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’  
For the Lord will deliver Jacob  
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than  
they.  
They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;  
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—*

*the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,  
the young of the flocks and herds.  
They will be like a well-watered garden,  
and they will sorrow no more.  
Then young women will dance and be glad,  
young men and old as well.  
I will turn their mourning into gladness;  
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.  
I will satisfy the priests with abundance,  
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”  
declares the Lord.*

*This is what the Lord says:*

*“A voice is heard in Ramah,  
mourning and great weeping,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”*

*This is what the Lord says:*

*“Restrain your voice from weeping  
and your eyes from tears,  
for your work will be rewarded,”  
declares the Lord.*

*Excerpts from Jeremiah 31:7-16*



***Read all of Jeremiah 31:3-17. What does it reveal about joy?***



***When has rejoicing been difficult because of your circumstances?***



***When circumstances are difficult or painful, what does it look like to cultivate joy? How does cultivating joy in the midst of difficulty change our perspective?***



***What specific aspects of God's character or actions allow you to find joy in all circumstances? Write down and thank God for these specifics.***



# Lesson 7:

## JOY OF CHRISTMAS

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*



***Read the verse above. What does it reveal about joy?***



***From this verse, what do we learn about the source and outcome of joy?***



***Which of these qualities are currently evident in your life? Which of these qualities do you want to cultivate this Christmas season?***



***How does your joy impact your outlook on your circumstances? Your attitudes? Your interactions with others? Is there anything that needs to change?***



***Where is your heart currently? If it needs redirection, list out what you can find joy in today. If you are currently joyful, share what you are finding joy in with someone else today! It might help change their heart, attitudes, and perspective too!***





# Wrap Up

Now that you have studied seven lessons on the joy of Christmas, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



***How has your understanding of joy at Christmas changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?***



***What will you change in your life as a result of this study?***



***Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of joy especially in this Christmas season? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?***