



Going Deeper into

Luke 2:8-20 – “JOY to the World”

1. **When you are constantly inundated with bad news from the media, both professional and social, it helps to get a regular intake of good news to stave off depression and insensitivity.**

Read Philippians 4:8. What are some topics in life that match the descriptions given in this passage?

What do you believe it means to meditate on these things?

Below are a few options to cultivate your growth in God’s good news and to also spread good news to others. Check some strategies that seem realistic to try in your life or create your own!

- 5 min praise prayer (a prayer with no other subject except worship)
- Gratitude journal (write something you are thankful for each morning. Review the journal once throughout the day)
- Praise it forward (give an encouraging word to someone every day)
- No Strings (give an unsuspecting gift to someone who cannot reciprocate the act)
- Other: _____

Pray: Dear God, you are the giver of all good things. Help me to focus my heart and my mind on the good things in the world and to not dwell on negative news or attitudes. Amen.

2. **In the sermon, Pastor Brian affirms that there is no greater joy than Jesus because there is no one that is as good and there is nothing that can satisfy like he can.**

Read Psalm 145 and Psalm 146:5-10. What attitude is encouraged in these psalms? What attributes or activities of God are listed to encourage this attitude in the hearers?

Like the psalmists did for God, list as many descriptions about Jesus as you can from your knowledge of the Bible or from personal experience:

Each day this week, pick one of the descriptions that you listed above and answer the following questions:

How does this attribute benefit mankind?

What need does it satisfy personally?

Mon:

Tues:

Wed:

Thurs:

Fri:

Sat:

Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for who you are and what you have done in my life. Help me to meditate daily on your love and grace, and to share more about Jesus with those around me. Amen.

3. The central application for Sunday's message was to delight in the Lord more than you delight in anything else. This is more than a one-time decision. It is a life-long pursuit that we must cultivate.

Read 1 Cor. 10:31.

The confession of faith known as the Westminster Catechism begins with a statement that "the chief end of man is the glorify God and enjoy Him forever." What connection is there between glorifying and God and finding pleasure in God?

What are some ways that you can enjoy God?

Pray: Heavenly Father, show me how to glorify you in the different parts of my day, even in mundane things like eating and drinking. Help me to enjoy you, and to not be so focused on the things you provide me, or on the fact that you provide, but to focus my desire and joy on you. Amen.