

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 4, 2016** sermon, "Joy to the World." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 98) together out loud.

WHEN SINGING *JOY TO THE WORLD*, NOTE . . .

1. **The salvation that our Lord secures.** (1-3)
 - A. This king reigns over every nation, and brings joy to all who trust him.
 - B. The wonderful One has done wonderful things. *This wonderful salvation . . .*
 - i. has been made known by the Lord (we can have it now)
 - ii. reveals his righteousness before all nations (everyone can see him)
 - iii. shows that God remembers his promises (he is always faithful)
2. **The praise our Lord deserves.** (4-6)
 - A. The world cannot keep Christ out of the Christmas celebration, though they try.
 - B. Use *Joy to the Word* to talk about the wonderful things that the Lord has done.
3. **The judgment that our Lord assures.** (7-9)
 - A. God rules over this world of his with sound judgment.
 - B. God's rule is freeing, consistent and good.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what way do you have joy because of the work of God in Christ Jesus? Based on your demeanor, your words and your relationships, do you think the world sees joy in you? Why or why not?
2. Based on #1, above: Have you ever tried to take a song (maybe one playing at a Christmas party or in a store) and use it to steer a conversation toward God? How do you do it? In what ways are you successful at this? In what ways does this scare you?
3. Based on #2, above: The world focuses on all the wrong things at Christmastime, but they cannot ultimately keep Christ out of Christmas. In what ways are your friends willing to talk about God at this time of year? Are you praying for a particular friend? What progress are you seeing in that friendship? When will you see that friend next? How can we pray for you?
4. Based on #3, above: People often doubt God's faithfulness, strength and love. They say they cannot feel him. How does the whole redemption story impact your emotions? You rebelled. You made yourself God's enemy. You deserve God's wrath. You had no way to make things right again. But God saw you in your rebellion. God promised that he would send one who could pay for your sin. And when the time was just right, he sent Jesus to pay for the sin of all who trust him. God has made good on his promise to redeem those who trust him! Do you feel his love today?