



**Joy for the World**  
Luke 2:8-20

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
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.

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
But the angel said to them,  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
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."

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
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.

**Joy**  
Luke 2:8-20  
But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.  
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Joy**  
God's way is not our way

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**God's way is not our way**

God's way is always best  
but not always convenient

**Joy**

**God's way is not our way**

God's way is always best  
but not always convenient

God's way is unconventional, unexpected  
but always significant and righteous

**Joy**

**God's way always saves**

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**God's way always saves**

God's way leads us to Jesus  
and Jesus came to save us

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**God's way always saves**

God's way leads us to Jesus  
and Jesus came to save us

God's way redeems us, restores us,  
recycles whatever junk we give Him  
and uses it for good in our lives  
and the lives around us.

**Joy**

**God's way brings us into His presence**

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Emmanuel means "God with us"

**Joy**

**God's way brings us into His presence**

Emmanuel means "God with us"

If God is for us, whoever or whatever is against  
us becomes inconsequential.

**Joy**

**God's way requires risk on our part**

## Joy

### God's way requires risk on our part

You can never walk on water if you don't step out of the boat.

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### God's way requires risk on our part

You can never walk on water if you don't step out of the boat.

Spiritual faith does not grow when it is only exposed to human ability.

## Joy

### God's way requires risk on our part

You can never walk on water if you don't step out of the boat.

Spiritual faith does not grow when it is only exposed to human ability.  
It grows when we reach out in childlike faith to embrace the improbable but undeniable truth that God loves us and will do for us what He promises.

## Joy

### God's way requires sacrifice

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To embrace what God has for us, we sacrifice our preconceived thoughts, our personal plans, our pettiness and pride.

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"I desire mercy and not sacrifice..."  
Hosea 6:6

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### God's way requires sacrifice

To embrace what God has for us, we sacrifice our preconceived thoughts, our personal plans, our pettiness and pride.

"I desire mercy and not sacrifice..."  
Hosea 6:6

"Rejoice in the Lord, always, again, I say rejoice."  
Philippians 4:4

## Joy

### True joy

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- the face of a child on Christmas morning . . .

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True joy

- the face of a child on Christmas morning . . .

