



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Luke 2:8-14

Finding joy in a broken world is like finding your way in the dark through a hundred-mile cave with one single match. It's just not going to happen. To find joy you need to understand what joy is. Joy is a Person and a path. The Person is Jesus and the path is an intentional life following Jesus. You must choose between two competing versions of joy—the joy the world is selling (that needs no Jesus but never lasts) and the joy that Jesus gives (that needs no world and never ends). The joy of Jesus has only one cost: simple faith. We can live in one of in two different locations with very different realities. One is on the inside, the other is outside. Only one can be "home." It's time to say "yes" to the presence of Jesus in your life. Choose Jesus and choose to live in the everlasting presence of joy.

Pray

Jesus, I no longer want the joy that the world is selling. It is cheap and filled with lies. I want the joy you give. I want to live the path of intentionally following you. Would you give me the strength I need to do that? Give me eyes to see where your joy is. Help me understand your how to live joy in this broken world—in close proximity to you and your will for me.

Getting Started

- Have you ever had plans change in a way that you didn't expect, but it turned out better than you could have hoped? What happened?
- Tell about the first time you turned to God and you knew that he heard you.

Digging Deeper

1. The Bible is separated into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story of our brokenness. How would you describe the New Testament? What is different about the New Testament?
2. It's easy to say "no" to something new when it doesn't look like you'd expect. When has God done something in your life that looked different? How can we discern if those kinds of things are from God?
3. Some say, "Follow Jesus and get the world." Is this biblical? Why is following the ways of the world so appealing? Compare the kinds of things we get when we follow Jesus and when we follow the world.
4. Read John 16:33. Jesus says, "In this world there will be trouble." What is different about getting through trouble with Jesus, than getting through trouble without him?
5. Explain the illustration of the house and the storm from the message. What does the storm represent? The yard? The house? Where are you most likely to weather a storm? What are the results?
6. What does saying "yes" to Jesus look like in your day-to-day life? How does this help How can you do it better?

Living Jesus

Jesus is the fulfillment of Psalm 16:11: "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with external pleasures at your right hand." The only way to know peace is to live in the presence of Jesus; not in a religious way where you can control things, but in close proximity to Jesus every day. Say yes to the person of Jesus and commit to the path of joy—intentionally living every day in his steps. How are you choosing to live today?

Your Story

How are you living in the presence of joy? Is it changing your life? OR Have you asked someone if you can pray for them and shared half of the invite card with them? How did it go? **Share your personal story with us [here](#) or choose Share Your Story under Forms at [MySevernRun.com](#).**