

ICEBREAKER

What's something small that brought you joy recently? (Examples: a good cup of coffee, a moment of laughter with a friend, seeing a beautiful sunrise, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

If Jesus' birth was "*good news of great joy*," then joy isn't optional, it's our inheritance. As we celebrate the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we're reminded that the coming of Jesus allows us to turn away from sadness and toward joy. Because of what happened on that holy night, we can now live a joy-filled life, even in a joyless world.

READ |

"The angel reassured them, 'Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people... Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'"
— Luke 2:10, 14 (NLT)

Joy isn't the same as happiness. Happiness depends on your circumstances, but **joy depends on Who is present**. The Bible's word for "joy" (*chara* in Greek) shares a root with *charis* (grace). That means **joy flows from grace**—from knowing that we're deeply loved, completely forgiven, and never alone.

Have you experienced this kind of joy before—even in a tough season?

(Examples: peace during heartbreak, laughter in grief, strength when you were exhausted, etc.)

READ |

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"
— John 15:11 (NLT)

We scroll through bad news, hear neighbors arguing, and live in a culture addicted to outrage. Even as believers, we can get cynical, tired, or numb. But here's the truth: joyless faith misrepresents a joyful Savior. When joy disappears, so does our ability to see what God is doing. Cynicism is easy, but real joy flows from Jesus—the kind of joy that doesn't depend on circumstances, only on His presence within us.

Where do you see joy missing? In your workplace, relationships, or even your faith? *(Examples: quick to complain, hard to celebrate others, constant stress, etc.)*

READ |

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” — Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

Joy is a weapon of spiritual warfare. It keeps your spirit strong when circumstances try to crush it. In the early church, believers would sing hymns even in prison. Their joy was confidence in the risen Jesus, a bold reminder that His light always has the final word over darkness. This doesn't mean we ignore pain or grief, but that joy strengthens us to face challenges and reflect Jesus' light even in dark times.

Where could you bring joy to a person or circumstance this week? (Examples: a kind word to a grumpy coworker, gratitude in a stressful moment, encouragement to a struggling friend, etc.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Ask Jesus to show you where in your life (or others' lives) you can pray for more joy.
- This week, select one person in your life to pray for, and to boldly invite to Christmas services! Share with your group who you'll be praying for & inviting.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the Joy of the world. When life feels dark, remind us that You are still our light. When we feel drained, let Your joy be our strength. Help us live joyfully in a joyless world, not because life is perfect, but because *You are present*. In Your precious name we pray, amen.



NEW HOPE WINDWARD

Christmas

AT NEW HOPE WINDWARD

DECEMBER 20 (SAT)
ANCHOR CHURCH (KANEHOE)
6:00PM

DECEMBER 21 (SUN)
REGAL CINEMAS (KANEHOE)
7AM | 8:30AM | 10AM

OFFERED AT ALL SERVICES:
KID ZONE (6 WEEKS-5TH GRADE)
YOUTH SERVICES (6-12TH GRADES)

CHRISTMAS ONLINE SERVICES
NHWW.ORG DEC 21 (SUN): 8:30AM | 10:30AM

 MORE INFO

DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

Day 1: “You have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.”
— **John 16:22 (NLT)**

Day 2: “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

— **1 Peter 1:8–9 (NIV)**

Day 3: “... yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!”

— **Habakkuk 3:18 (NLT)**

Day 4: “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”

— **Philippians 4:4 (NLT)**

Day 5: “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.”

— **Romans 15:13 (NLT)**