

Simple Faith

◆ December 2 ◆

“The Elusive Joy of Christmas”

Having simple faith helps us discover the fulfillment of Christmas.

Luke 2:10

THEME: JOY!

Christmas is coming and it is such an exciting time of the year.

I want to ask you to close your eyes.

Now say, “Christmas” with me and picture it in your mind:

Christmas ... Christmas ... Christmas.

You can open your eyes.

Share something you pictured in your mind when we said “Christmas” over and over again.

(Elicit a few responses.)

The things you saw are many of the things most of us would also see when we hear the word Christmas. Give me a thumbs-up if the things you thought of bring you joy or happiness.

Now let’s do it one more time. Close your eyes, repeat this word with me and picture it in your mind. January...January...January.

You can open your eyes. Share something you pictured in your mind when we said January over and over again.

Hmmm, were your thoughts the same or different from your thoughts about Christmas?

If your Christmas thoughts brought you so much joy or happiness, did the thoughts about January do the same for you? Why did the January thoughts not bring you the same joy or happiness as Christmas? After all, it’s only a few days later.

I think I can help with that. So many of the things that we THINK will bring us joy and happiness in the Christmas season simply do not last. So, instead of thinking about all those things we listed earlier, perhaps we could think more about Jesus being born and how much He loves us. We could focus more on all the ways we can serve him!

If we focus on Jesus and not the typical Christmas thoughts, then when the next month or even years roll by, we can still have the joy only Jesus brings and it won’t fade away like other Christmas joys.