

December 14-15th, 2024

Break the Ice

There are over 4 billion unique playlists on Spotify! Each one gives so much insight into the person who created them. What songs are on your Christmas playlists this year?

What brings you deep enjoyment that is very unique to you or that people might not know about you?

Up

Read and reflect on James 1:2-4 together.

What stands out, is confusing, or provoking your train of thought from this passage?

What connections can you make between this passage and the Christmas story?

How has God used the trials in your life to grow you?

<u>In</u>

What compromises do we tend to make when we slip into a pursuit of happiness over a pursuit of joy? (Try to think beyond the surface answers. How does this effect the way you love, your mind, your walk with Christ, etc?)

On the flip side, what are the byproducts that come into our life when we choose to live in a place of joy?

<u>Out</u>

Joy is not dependent on circumstance. What does it look like to bring joy into your place of work, that hard family gathering, the conflict with your spouse, or other everyday environment where you find yourself?

Who can you invite to come with you to a Christmas Eve service this year? Not to add more to the crowd, but to help them on a journey towards finding joy and peace in their life.

<u>Prayer</u>

Conclude your time by leading the group to pray:

- Joy is produced out of a heart of thanksgiving and contentment. Focus this time of prayer solely on thanking God. Think deeply about the trials and challenges and how you can thank God for what He produced in the midst of those times.
- Have someone close the time of prayer by reading the benediction in Hebrew 13:20-21.