






	ADVENT: Joy
 BIG IDEA	Joy is a confident sense of wellbeing despite your circumstances.
 ICE BREAKER	Share a "Chippie moment" from your life – a time when you felt "sucked in, washed up, and blown over" by unexpected circumstances. How did that experience affect you?
 MAIN POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● God's purpose is not your happiness but to be close to Him. ● God is more interested in building your character than making you feel comfortable. ● Three Facts About Trials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trials are inevitable – "In this world you will have trouble" ○ Trials are unpredictable – They're "multi-colored" and we "fall into them unexpectedly" ○ Trials can be purposeful – "Testing of your faith develops perseverance" ● Joy is a Choice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J – Jesus ○ O – Others ○ Y – Yourself
 DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would you explain the difference between happiness and joy? 2. Why do you think we're called to pursue joy rather than happiness? How might our lives look different if we focused on one versus the other? 3. Share about a trial that came completely unexpectedly in your life. How did you initially respond? 4. Read James 1:2-4. What makes this so difficult to actually do in the moment? 5. Billy Graham said, "Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys." What "fruit" have you seen grow in the valleys of your life? 6. On a scale of 1-10, how much of your mental and emotional energy is currently focused on yourself versus Jesus and others? What does that tell you?
 NEXT STEP	<p>Choose one area to focus on this week to bring joy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marriage – Where do I need to choose joy instead of running from difficulty? ● Work – What trial at work could be a growth opportunity in disguise? ● Faith – Where am I resisting what God is trying to produce in me?
 SCRIPTURE	<p>John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.</p> <p>James 1:2-4 Consider it pure JOY, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.</p>
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the Christmas series: Advent

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com