

*Be Joyful*  
Romans 12:12  
December 4, 2016

1. As we get ready to enter back into the Calvary sanctuary, what are you most excited about for Calvary Church? What do you suppose will be difficult for Calvary?
2. Pastor Jim explained that the dominant context for the use of the word joy in the New Testament is the future. What aspects about your future bring you joy? During this Advent season, what ultimately brings followers of Christ joy for the future?
3. Does being joyful mean being happy all the time? Consider the following verses and discuss with your group how joy can accompany difficult circumstances. Give examples from your own life.
  - a. John 16:21
  - b. Matthew 28:8
  - c. 2 Corinthians 6:10
  - d. 1 Thessalonians 1:6
  - e. 2 Corinthians 8:2 and Hebrews 12:2).
4. How does the being joyful in hope allow us to be a blessing to those around us no matter what circumstances we are experiencing?
5. Take time to pray with your group. Reflect on God's joy even in the midst of what may be a difficult circumstance for you. Rejoice in the future return of Christ and allow that truth to bring you joy in the present.