CONN³CT
Small Group Bible Study

4th Advent
JOY

December 18, 2011

The word Advent stems from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." Advent is a time of both preparation, as we prepare our hearts to honor the birth of Christ, and of celebration that He has come and will come again.

JOY

What are things you celebrate at Christmas? What are things that people around you celebrate?

Luke 2:9-11 NLT "Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

What is it about the Christmas story that the angels said would bring "to to all people?"

How did the following experience this Joy?
Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-45
Mary - Luke 1:46-55
The Wise Men - Matthew 2:7-11
Simeon - Luke 2:25-32

What is it about the Christmas Season as we know it that results in such a lack of joy for so many? What are we missing?

Looking a little more personally, how do you let the "celebration" of Christmas get in the way of experiencing the true Joy of Christmas?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How can a Christian use this teaching in preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth?
How will you prepare for this celebration?

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Luke 2:12-14 NLT "And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

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