

Media



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed. (Links can be found on this session's webpage.)
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Group:

Show the *Bible Background Video* followed by the “How Great our Joy” and “Joy to the World” clips, then use any or all of these questions to promote discussion:

- How do these songs compare to the message that is presented in this passage?
- If you were to speak on behalf of your congregation, what do you think would give it the most joy and why?
- How essential do you think that the things that Isaiah (and later Jesus) promises in this passage are to your congregational experience of joy and why?
- Many of the things that we hope for are designed to increase our level of joy. What do you think your community hopes your congregation will do to increase its joy and in what ways does your congregation respond to this?
- In what ways does joy transform the life of your congregation?

✓ React to This:

Play the “Ode to Joy” and “Spread Joy” clips, stopping briefly after each for any comments, then ask questions like:

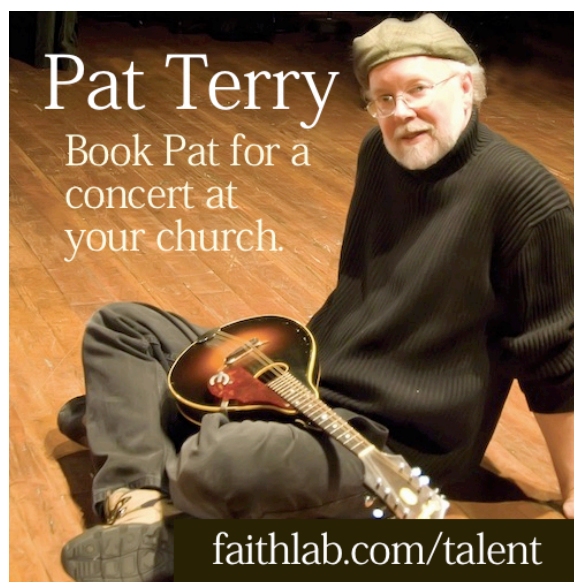
- In what ways do the expressions of joy contained in these songs differ from what we have been discussing so far?
- In what ways can you make the hopes and promises of this passage of scripture into a reality on a more interpersonal level?
- How are hopes for joy different when you consider an individual, rather than a group?
- How do you think the presence or absence of joy in your life most affects you?
- In what ways does your faith provide you with hope and joy?

- What other kinds of things do you do in order to increase the level of joy in your life or in the lives of others?

✓ Closing

Invite volunteers to celebrate “Joy” Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent) by naming something that gives them hope that they will experience joy in this season. Close with a prayer that reflects those offered hopes and joys.

By David Adams



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