

Connection

What is your favorite Christmas cookie?

Content

"The word of God will never fail."

What do you think or feel when you read that statement?

Joy has ingredients from God, but this life we live seeks to rob us of joy. We see joy in the example of Mary in her openness to the things of God, eagerness to do the will of God, and the newness that God showed her. She experiences these ingredients of joy and we can too:

Favor: "You have found favor with God."

1. Read Luke 1:26-31, Psalm 5:12, and Psalm 90:17.

What does "Favor" from God mean to you?

Hope: "For nothing is impossible with God."

2. Read Luke 1:32-37, Isaiah 55:10-11. God can do anything for He is the Most High God.

What is an impossible situation you are facing, and how can God make it possible?

Love: "I am the Lord's Servant."

3. Read Luke 1:38 and Philippians 2:6-8. Mary had humility and knew she needed to say "Yes" to God. Also, Jesus was humble and willing to submit Himself for us.

How can we learn from Mary and Jesus so we can get to the place to say "I am the Lord's servant?"

Belief: "You are blessed because you believe."

4. Read Luke 1:39-45, Luke 11:27-28, Isaiah 43:19. When we believe, we act upon it.

If you have a wilderness you can't see a way through, how can you believe and trust in the Lord to lead you through it?

Wonder: Treasured and pondered

5. Read Luke 2:18-19. What was Mary pondering here?

6. Read Matthew 1:20-25 Joseph was about to divorce Mary until an Angel of the Lord appeared to Him. It was miraculous how God moved in Joseph and brought about a change of heart. In what ways has God moved in your life that you need to ponder and how can you treasure these things?

Commitment

7. When you see the word “favor” in scripture, remember it means God is with you. When we serve the God of impossible, we have hope. When we serve we show love. We are blessed because we believe. When we ponder these things we wonder.

These five words are the ingredients of Joy:

Favor
Hope
Love
Belief
Wonder

Which ingredient are you lacking in your life? How do you need to lean into it to experience Joy?



Begin with prayer. **L**isten with care. **E**at / Engage with another. **S**erve. **S**hare your story.

This week, **Begin with prayer** for someone in your life who needs Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?