

SADNESS**Not A Storybook Christmas**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus comes into the pain of my story to bring me hope, peace, and joy because He loves me.

Hope is the confidence of my salvation.

Peace is the comfort in my salvation.

Joy is the anticipation of the fulfillment of my salvation.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Jesus came to be my source of joy.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:11 (NIV)

Joy is the evidence of Jesus in me.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Joy is not the absence of sadness, but the power of hope alive in my trial.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him;

and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

Joy isn't an emotion to be felt, but a gift to be received as we trust in Jesus.

I have been looking for joy in _____.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

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