

## FINDING JOY IN THE PREPARATION

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*And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52 NLT*

**To find joy, ask: what am I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?**

*So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. 1 Peter 1:13 Message*

*At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."  
Luke 1:41-45 NLT*

*Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home. Luke 1:56 NLT*

**To find joy, share \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.**

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 12:1 Message*

*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Colossians 3:23 NLT*

**To find joy, be \_\_\_\_\_ in the moment.**

## **QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS //**

- *What's your favorite part of "preparing" for Christmas?*
- *Read 1 Peter 1:13. How do you suppose we can apply these words in this season?*
- *Read Romans 12:1. In what ways can we invite Jesus into moments throughout our day?*
- *Pause in this moment to be mindful. In what ways can you see and sense Jesus' presence with you right now?*
- *Now, what could it look like to live with that mindfulness throughout this Christmastime?*
- *Share praises and needs and lift one another in prayer!*