



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Joy to the
World

MIDWEEK GUIDE

O Come All
Ye Faithful

2018

December

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Session 1: Joy to the World

1. Read Psalm 98. What words are used to describe the “noise” that we are called to make toward God?

2. How would you prepare to receive a king in your home?

3. What is meant by “Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room” in the carol, “Joy to the World”? What is a place in your life that you need to prepare for the coming of Jesus, our King?

4. In the video it is mentioned that, *all the words of the hymn are written in the present tense, not something that had happened and is over with, but something that is happening and is still to come.* How can this inspire you to sing the lyrics of “Joy to the World” with a fresh perspective?

5. All of creation was designed and came into being with the purpose of bringing glory to God. How can we glorify God in the things we do? Read Matthew 5:16. What is Christ saying here?

6. When pausing for a moment to ponder the wonder of the birth of Jesus Christ, His future return, and its personal meaning for you, what emotions fill your soul?

7. All creation rejoices over the omnipotent and just King. What are some ways in which you can radiate this joy to all during this Advent season?

8. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: Write out the blessings that God has flowed into your life. Reflecting on these blessings, how can you sing “Joy to the World” in a new way?

Joy to the World (by Isaac Watts)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found!

**(this verse is often omitted in renditions of the hymn today)*

He rules the world with truth and grace;
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness.
And wonders of his love.

Bible Reference

Psalm 98

Session 2: O Come All Ye Faithful

1. Read Luke 2:1-39 together. List out all the people involved in the story and how they showed their adoration for the Lord.

2. Read through the lyrics of “O Come All Ye Faithful.” In your own words, what do these lyrics mean to you?

3. What do the lyrics inspire you to do? Do you feel called to worship the Lord each day? What can get in the way of our worship?

4. When you learn more about Jesus, do you feel compelled to share that with others? What can we tell others about Jesus *now* that the shepherds didn't realize *then*?

5. Jesus' birth marked a turning point in history. His appearing had an immediate impact on the shepherds and the angels. How has Jesus' appearing impacted your life?

6. Just as the shepherds, we are called to praise our God along with the hosts of angels. Besides singing, how can you express your adoration to Him?

7. We read in Luke 2 that the angel told the shepherds that a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born, and that they would find the Babe lying in a *manger* – which is an open box in which food for livestock is placed. What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus Christ? Knowing this, how are we to come to the Lord in worship?

8. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: When was the last time you sat in silent adoration of God? Take 5 minutes this week to sit in awe and worship Him.

O Come All Ye Faithful (originally written in Latin by John Francis Wade, often also credited with the composition of the tune, in the 18th century)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him born, the King of angels:
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
 Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 Very God, begotten, not created:
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
 "Glory to God in the highest."
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Bible Reference

Luke 2