



The Christmas season is full of joy, but it is also full of stress. And that's how it was when Christ was born—a time of joy and anxiety. Perhaps that's why four times in the birth narratives the angels say "Do not be afraid." This series will explore why Christmas should make us bold, because there's something about Jesus coming that makes fear leave.

Week 4: Fearless Joy

1. Rick began by pointing out that *most people live predominantly fearful or joyful*. Are you more prone to live with fear or joy? Why is that true for you?
2. **Read Luke 2:8-20**. What stands out to you in this story? How would you feel if you were one of the shepherds?
3. **JOY IS ATTAINABLE!** *"Don't be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy."* How does the information we consume impact our feelings of fear or joy? Share an example of how you've experienced that recently. Follow up: How can you be more mindful about what you engage with in your daily life to help maintain a joy that is fearless?
4. **JOY IS SUSTAINABLE... because sin will not win.** *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you."* **Read Matthew 1:21**. How does knowing Jesus paid for your sins help you sustain joy? Follow up: What does that teach you about how God views you?
5. **JOY IS SUSTAINABLE... because the call is for all.** Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of Jesus to shepherds, who were often considered lowly and overlooked in society? Follow up: Consider all the diverse characters in the birth narratives of Jesus. What does this say about the expansiveness of the good news?
6. **JOY IS SUSTAINABLE... because now we can cope with hope.** What does **Luke 1:32-33** tell us about the hope that can overcome our fears? How can meditating on this scripture help us when we are faced with uncertainties or fear in our lives?
7. Rick closed by reminding us that *"We will not be dominated by fear, but by good cheer."* How can lighting a candle help you center your heart on the good news that brings great joy? Follow up: What is one practical thing you can do today to live with fearless joy?

