



## Session Two Coming Home for Christmas

### Connect Together (10 minutes)

1. What was the best Christmas gift you were given as a child?
2. What is your most vivid Christmas memory?

### Grow Together (15 Minutes)

*Watch the DVD lesson and follow along in your outline below.*

#### COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Come Home for Christmas Joy

#### *How do I choose joy?*

#### I. CHOOSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” Luke 2:10*

*“I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God's powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven ... now everyone is invited to come to God in this same way.” Romans 1:16 (TLB)*

*“You even had joy when all that you owned was taken from you, because you knew you had something better and more lasting.” Hebrews 10:34 (NCV)*

#### II. CHOOSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’” Luke 2:15*

*“The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight to life.” Psalm 19:8 (NLT)*

*“Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. **Ask** and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” John 16:24*

### III. CHOOSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child...”*  
Luke 2:17

*“With joy they should tell what He has done.”* Psalm 107:22

*“I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don’t need to change.”* Luke 15:7 (NCV)

*“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”* Psalm 126:5

*“Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.”* Philippians 4:4 (NCV)

### Discussion Questions (20 Minutes)

1. Do you think there is more joy or less joy around the Christmas season today as compared when you were a kid? Why do you think that is?
2. What is in your life that you feel God is saying “trust me in this”?
3. What are you asking God for this Christmas? What are you asking of God? Write it down—make your Christmas list to God!
4. In Psalm 107:22 it says “with joy they should tell what He has done.” Have you told others what God has done or is doing in your life? Can you be a shepherd and spread the Good News?

### Serve Together (10 Minutes)

Discuss some ideas of how you as a group can serve together this holiday season. You may have already discussed these during the 40 Days series, but here are some suggestions:

- Pick up an angel from the Giving Tree Project
- Adopt a child from a homeless shelter for the season
- Help with childcare during one of the Christmas Services

## **Reach Out Together (10 Minutes)**

Choose to attend one of the Christmas Concerts and one of the Christmas Eve Service together-- and invite your family and friends to come with you! Can you think of someone who could receive joy by hearing the Good News this season?

## **Worship Together (15 Minutes)**

1. Sing some Christmas Carols together.
2. Pray for one specific person that this Christmas season they could experience the joy of the Good News.
3. Recognize and celebrate any answered prayers from previous weeks. Pray for each other's prayer requests. Pray that each one in your group will find JOY this Christmas season.