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| **“Joy to the World”**  *Read the line in hymn and then reflect on Scripture passages. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* | **Going deeper in Luke, Ephesians, Genesis, Psalms, & Romans & Micah** |
| HYMN | SCRIPTURE |
| Verse 1  “Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.” | Luke 2:7 – “and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”  Ephesians 3:17-19 – “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” |
| Verse 2-3  “Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, 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, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.” | Genesis 3:17-19 - To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."  Psalm 96:11-13 - Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; 12 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; 13 they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.  Romans 8:22-23 -We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. |
| Verse 4 –  “He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.” | Micah 6:8 - He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. |

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. When you hear the words “Let every heart prepare Him room,” what does that remind you of in the story of Jesus birth? Have you given Him the main room in your heart? Does your heart still belong to Him?

2. In verse 2-3 it mentions a curse and thorns infesting the ground. Read Genesis 3:17-19. What went wrong? How did that effect humanity and all of creation? The hymn speaks of fields, floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeating the sounding joy. How does that compare with Psalm 96:11-13? What do you think it might be like for creation to sing for joy before the Lord?

3. Read Romans 8:22-23. This passage is speaking about the consummation that will occur when Jesus returns. How will that affect all of creation according to this passage? When you think of the redemption that comes through Jesus have you thought of God’s redemption do you think of it in terms of the redemption of humanity and all of creation? Why do you think Scripture speaks of the redemption of Jesus as both?

4. Verse 4 of the hymn speaks of the nations proving the glories of God’s righteousness and the wonders of His love. Why might remembering both the righteousness or justice of God and His love be important? What happens if you only emphasize one?

5. Can you think of other Scriptures beside Micah 6:8 that do a good job of emphasizing both the love and justice of God? How should those two aspects of God impact living out your faith?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for setting you free from the power of sin (the curse).

\*Thank the Lord for His power at work redeeming all of humanity and all of creation

\*Ask the Lord to show you daily the part you are to play in His great rescue plan.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Scriptures that go with this hymn remind us that the redemption that comes through Jesus is a worldwide rescue plan. When the effects of sin are finally broken the only thing left will be joy. Will you choose to joyfully be a part of God’s plan this week?