

## O Come All Ye Faithful

? What's the best Christmas gift you've ever received? What made it so special?

There are many things in this world that we have high expectations for (e.g. elections, new job) but often don't deliver when we finally get there, and we end up feeling disappointed. The carol "O Come All Ye Faithful" is about the faithful and joyful coming in expectation to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem and having all of their expectations met. They were not disappointed. In this holiday season, how can we also learn that Jesus satisfies every desire and need that we have. How can we "adore him?"

### History of O Come All Ye Faithful (Taken from Wikipedia)

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (originally written in Latin as Adeste Fideles) is a Christmas carol that has been attributed to various authors, including John Francis Wade (1711–1786), John Reading (1645–1692), King John IV of Portugal (1604–1656), and anonymous Cistercian monks. The earliest printed version is in a book published by Wade, but the earliest manuscript bears the name of King John IV, and is located in the library of the Ducal Palace of Vila Viçosa. A manuscript by Wade, dating to 1751, is held by Stonyhurst College in Lancashire. The original four verses of the hymn were extended to a total of eight, and these have been translated into many languages. The English translation of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" by the English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley, written in 1841, is widespread in most English-speaking countries.*

### [O Come All Ye Faithful – Kings Kaleidoscope](#)

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, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy  
morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord

## Personal Reflections On Being Joyful

? In our world right now, do you find it difficult to feel joyful and triumphant going into this Christmas season? Why?

*Possible answers: COVID considerations have made it difficult. I find it hard to get into the 'Christmas Spirit', I'm not going to be with family this year.*

? Regardless of where you are at right now, who are people in your life whose joy in Jesus have helped you to also find more joy in Jesus during this time?

*Possible answers: Mom, My discipler, friend, etc.*

? Would people in your life say that you are a person who has helped them to find more joy in Jesus this year? Explain your answer.

*Possible answers: I feel like it's been really challenging to share about Jesus this year. My friend has told me I've been really encouraging to her because of [this specific thing I do].*

## The Joyful Ripple Effect

Although we may often find ourselves struggling to live as God has called, God knew Jesus was sent to die for you. He knows the specific circumstances in your life right now that are causing difficulty. Not only that, he understands more deeply than anyone else, the desire to just give up having joy in God in the midst of circumstances. Jesus is, after all, the high priest who is not "unable to sympathize with our weaknesses but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are..." (Hebrews 4:15). So even when Jesus' closest friends ran away from him at his death, he fully restored them and forgave them because he understood their weakness and died to give them strength.

? In our circumstances and weakness, how can remembering Jesus' birth bring us joy in this season?

*Possible answers: Remembering Jesus came to die to bring us into good-standing with God. Jesus is always with us in the rough times.*

Perhaps you've never thought about this (the writers of this SG study hadn't), but the joy of the angels was at least in part what inspired the shepherds to go and adore baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

*Luke 2:8-15*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

<sup>14</sup>*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

<sup>15</sup>*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."*



Have you ever thought about why the angels were so excited about the birth of Christ? What might be bringing them joy about the birth of Jesus?

*Possible answers: They are excited about God's plan finally coming together.*



How does the angel's joy lead them to share it with the shepherds? What effect does it have upon the shepherds?

*Possible answers: They sing and then the shepherds respond by going to Bethlehem to see what it is the angels were excited about.*



What does this teach us about sharing joy with others?

*Possible answers: It's okay to share how we're enjoying God with others. That can encourage people to also be excited to worship God.*

This song has been sung by God's faithful for centuries and its message is as true today as it was when it was written. How can we let others' joy in Jesus influence us, as God's faithful, to adore Jesus this Christmas season? How can we inspire others to find joy in Jesus?

*Suggestions:*

- *Call a friend to see how they are doing*
- *Pray with someone over the phone or in-person*
- *Memorize a passage of Scripture with someone*
- *Share something you enjoy with someone and take time to thank God for it (e.g. food item, a hike, book, etc.)*
- *Write a letter to someone*
- *Get a small gift for someone*
- *Share with someone how they have encouraged you*

### **For Discussion and Accountability**



How can you invite people into your life to help you enjoy Christ more?



When hardships occur, is joy your initial response? How does your view or interaction with God change amidst hardships?