

Born Is The King *Joy to the World*

? What's one of your favorite places in nature to be and why?

Lyrics

If you'd like to listen to the carol: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DTXn0bKGzo>

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.

Joy to the world! the Saviour 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.

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.

The words of the hymn are by English writer Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98, 96:11–12 and Genesis 3:17–18. A version by the Trinity Choir was very popular in 1911. As of the late 20th century, "Joy to the World" was the most published Christmas hymn in North America. (Wikipedia.)

? How is joy talked about in culture today?

Possible Answers: Joy is considered interchangeable with happiness. You hear 'do what makes you happy' often. Often, it's dependent on circumstances.

? Why is there so much joy in Jesus being born?

Possible Answers: There are many possible answers! People at the time he was born had been waiting for the Messiah. Jesus being born means God sent his son for us. Jesus showed us an example of how to live. He was a fulfillment of the law. And ultimately, he suffered and died on the cross for our sins.

Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)

¹² You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

? What does it mean that heaven and nature sing?

Possible Answers: God created nature to show us aspects of himself - his creativity, his beauty and majesty, his power and domain. Winter to Spring shows new life coming.

? The carol speaks to many aspects of who God is. What are they, and which one stands out to you?

Possible Answers: He is Lord and King, and Saviour. Jesus came to take care of our sin and sorrow. He rules with truth and grace. He is righteous. There are many aspects to his love.

Psalms 98 (NIV)

A psalm.

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

⁴ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
⁵ make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

? What similarities do you see in the carol and the Psalm?

Possible Answers: Both are about giving praise to God. Joy is mentioned several times in both, and they both have very uplifting and joyous tones. Both talk about nature singing and praising. They both talk about God's righteousness.

? What does it look like to make music to the Lord?

Possible Answers: Thanking God for what he has done. Singing. Using the gifts God gave you to praise God.

? We all need to be saved by God and Jesus is the joy we need. How does God give you joy?

Possible Answers: His spirit works in my heart. His promises give me Hope. His unconditional love changes how I view myself and others. He gives my life purpose.

? What joy do you crave?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Some examples might include the joy of a comfortable life or pleasant circumstances, or having no hardships. Ultimately, joy apart from God is fleeting and temporary.

? How do you perceive the world needing joy in our modern times?

Possible Answers: There's a lot of pain, hopelessness, loneliness and fear. We look to fill the need for joy in so many different ways. Joy for people could look like knowing they are not alone or knowing that there is a God that is in complete control, even when the world feels like chaos.

? How do you cultivate joy when you do not feel joyful? When you're going through something extremely difficult?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Make a list of things I'm thankful for. Read the Psalms (or any part of the Bible). Journal. Talk to a friend. Listen to music. Talk to God. Look at the example of Jesus (read the gospels) and see how he handled pain and suffering. The key to this is a deep relationship with Jesus.

? What does it look like for you personally to express joy?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary

For Discussion and Accountability

? What is one thing you can do this week to cultivate joy?