

## December 3 | Sunday

Advent: Turning Weeping into Joy

Read [Psalm 30:5](#)



### 04 | Mon – Grief sharer | Read [Psalm 30:11-12 and Isaiah 41:10, 13-14](#)

Life is an interesting thing. There are moments of such great happiness that you feel like you can fly. And then there are valleys so deep with grief that you think you will never smile again. These promises are especially for those dark days. Remember: you are not alone and it is GOD who turns your mourning into joy. He promised. Is there someone else who needs to hear these words today?

### 05 | Tue – Tragedy at the gate | Read [2 Chronicles 20:1-22](#)

The Old Testament is full of stories where God intervened and turned mourning into dancing. This is one of those stories. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, was facing a massive army coming to destroy the city and everyone in it. As you read what Jehoshaphat did, look for how this expected defeat was transformed into an unparalleled victory. Is there some action in this story that might be helpful for you to take in the middle of your difficult situations?

### 06 | Wed – The unexpected grief | Read [1 Kings 17:7-23](#)

What is worse than the death of a child? Is there any deeper grief for a parent? This good woman, a widow with only one son, had taken in the prophet Elijah during the famine, even though she was running out of food. And how did God respond? By allowing her son to die? Read to see how God used an undeserved grief to show that He could and would transform it into joy. Has this ever happened to you or someone you know?

### 07 | Thu – Story of hope | Read [Esther 9:20-22](#)

It was a death sentence, somewhat like Hitler's directive in WW II. God's people in Persia were targeted just because they were Jews. Who can stand against the 2nd most powerful man in the kingdom, especially when the king had agreed? Was there ever a time in your life when you felt powerless to change the dark future that seemed to lie ahead, then a "miracle" happened? Please share your story. Esther did and it brings us great encouragement!

### 08 | Fri – In the silence | Read [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

As a result of their sin, the nations of Israel/Judah were conquered by the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks and now it was the Romans who ruled them with an iron fist. Through four centuries of God's silence, his people held onto the Old Testament promises that God would send a deliverer. What about you? What promises do you grip tightly when life knocks you down?

### 09 | Sat – The final word | Read [Revelation 21:1-4](#)

Sometimes the grief we experience is never fully relieved and we carry the effects of our loss for the rest of our lives. Can God still bring joy and hope in the midst of unresolved situations? He can, yet it is apparent that joy found in this life is temporary at best. Someday *all* tears will be wiped away and *all* sorrow will disappear forever. How do these words from Revelation give you hope as you experience the weeping and the joys of your present life?