

# Gathering

## JOY

**D**ecember is known as the 'season of joy'. We sing about it – JOY to the World – we read about it – behold I bring you good tidings of great JOY – but just how joyful is the season for you? Do you find yourself a little overwhelmed with all that has to be done, tired of commercialism and a bit “grinch-like”? Or possibly this year, you are facing personal struggles that leave you feeling anything but merry and bright.

We all have times when happiness eludes us. That is a normal part of life. We can, however, be encouraged to know that even though we can't find happiness at times, we can always know the JOY of the Lord.

Joy isn't like happiness which is based upon personal circumstances or on our own perception that things are going well. No, joy is constant – even in tough situations. Joy is not happiness. Joy comes as we hold steadfastly to the hope of, acquisition or even the expectation of something great or wonderful. Certainly, at Christmas, we hold on JOYFULLY to the hope of the world – the Christ Child.

Romans 15:13 becomes a prayer during this season. A prayer that abiding joy would be ours as we hope in Christ: *“I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse your lives with an abundance of joy...”* (The Voice)

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions below with your group:

- How do you define the difference between joy and happiness?
- How can we experience joy even when we don't “feel” happy?
- Can you fake joy in your heart?
- How can you share your joy with others?

Be sure to hand out the Monthly Scripture Card and Take Home Sheet.

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*

Romans 15:13



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How do you define the  
difference between  
**joy** and **happiness**?



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How can we experience **joy**  
even when we don't  
"feel" **happy**?



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JOY

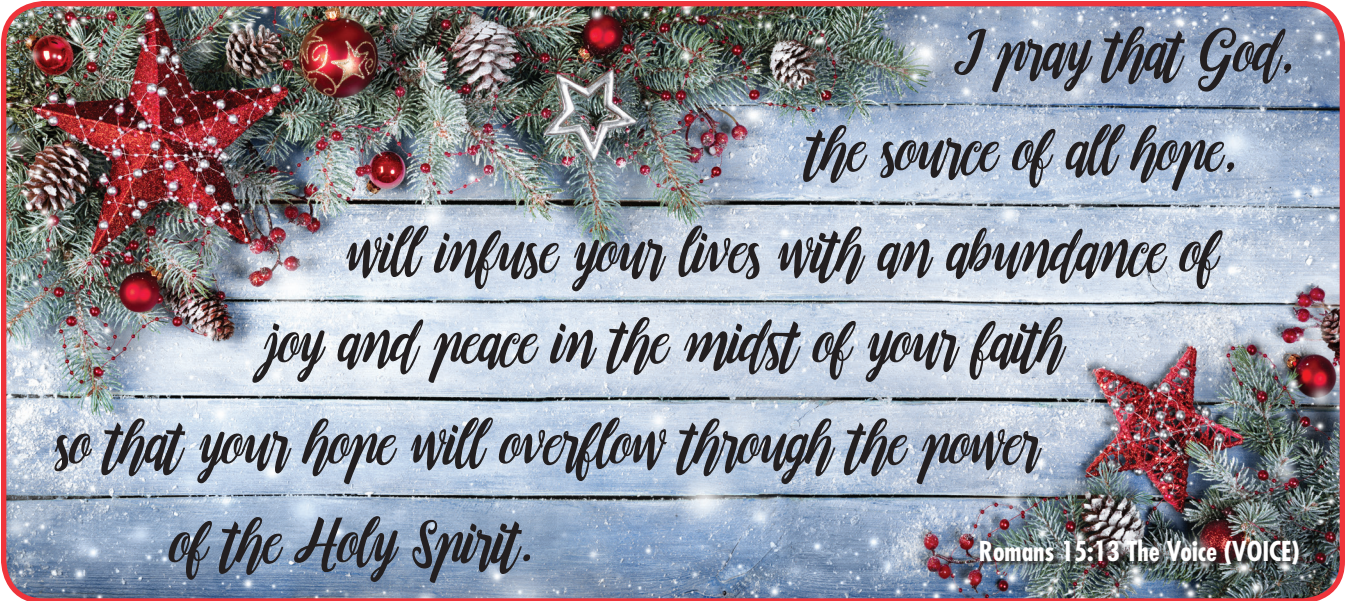
Can you fake **joy**  
in your **heart**?



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How can you share  
your **joy** with **others**?

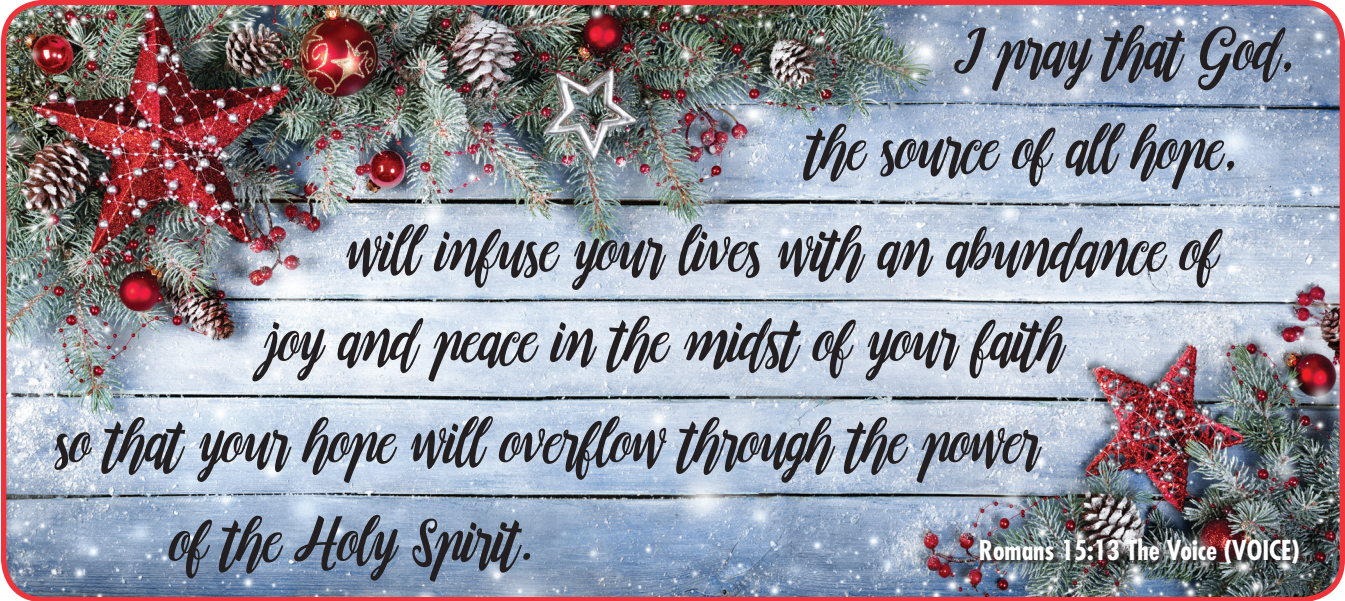


*I pray that God,  
the source of all hope,*

*will infuse your lives with an abundance of  
joy and peace in the midst of your faith*

*so that your hope will overflow through the power  
of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13 The Voice (VOICE)

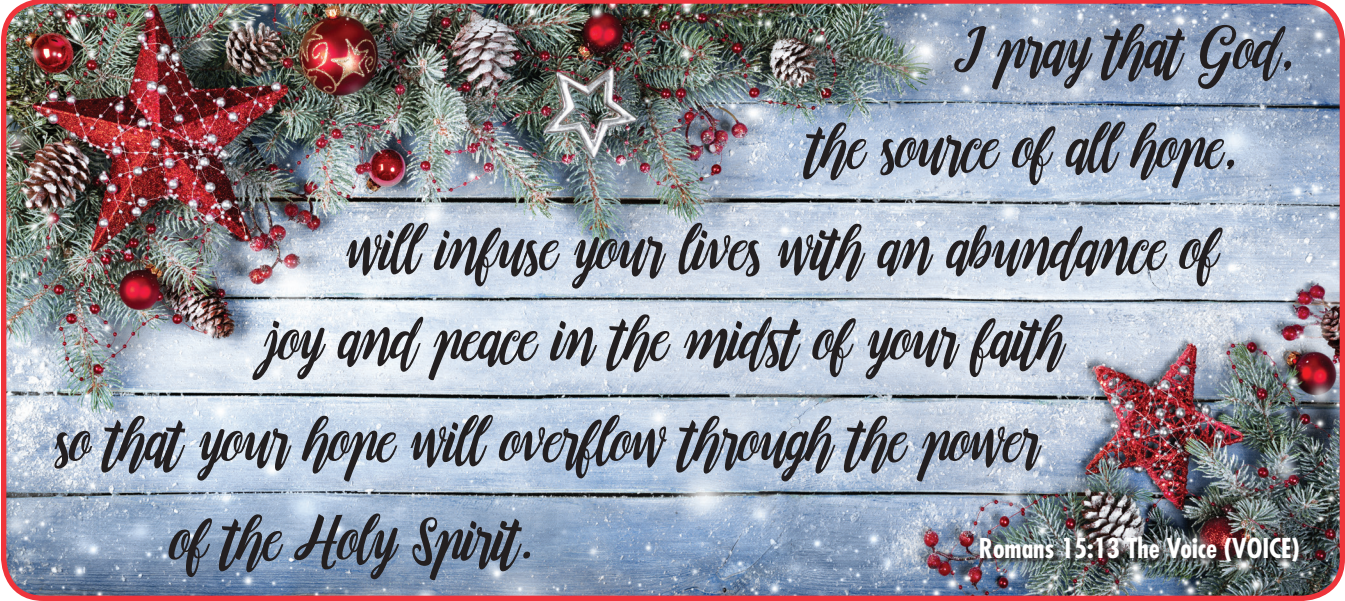


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