February 7, 2016

**The Joy of God’s Presence**

*1 Chronicles 15:14-16; 25-28, Luke 2:8-11*

Why does God prefer us to be joyful in His Presence rather than somber or sad (1Chronicles 15:16)? What does our joy indicate about our faith and our relationship with God?

How well are you able to make the reality of God’s Presence a factor in every situation and decision?

What effect does His Presence have on you in difficult situations (1 Chronicles 13:6-13; 1 Corinthians 4:3-5)? In order to live in His joy, why is it important to stand clean and blameless –in Christ- before Him?

In the story of Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:8-11), what change was God making in the way people could stand in His Presence (John 1:32-34; 2:18-22)?

How is our joy different from the world’s joy (Matthew 13:20-21, 23)?

How is our relationship with the Lord able to take in fear and joy all at once (Matthew 28:8-9)?