

# 'TIS THE SEASON

WEEK 3 // THE EMPTY CHAIR

DANNY ANDERSON

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great **joy** to all people.” *Luke 2:10*

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace** on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” *Luke 2:14*

*“...For families who have recently lost someone they love, the holidays can seem more like something to survive than to enjoy. The traditions and events that can add so much joy and meaning to the season are punctuated with painful repeated reminders of loss. Many of us wish we could find a quiet place to hide until January 2nd.”* — Nancy Guthrie

Why is it so hard?

1. Give yourself a pass.

What will allow you to experience joy and peace?

Love is **patient** and kind. *1 Corinthians 13:4*

2. Start a new tradition.

3. Surround yourself with the right people.

**Rejoice** with those who rejoice; **mourn** with those who mourn. *Romans 12:15*

*“Choose to be around people you can count on to understand your sorrow, people who offer the emotional and spiritual support you need to get through the season.”* — Nancy Guthrie

4. Cling to God for comfort.

God is our merciful Father and the source of all **comfort**. He **comforts** us in all our troubles so that we can **comfort** others. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

*“Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to him in trust and confidence.”* — Billy Graham

The Lord is close to the **brokenhearted**; he rescues those whose spirits are **crushed**. *Psalms 34:18*

What if you exchanged the empty chair for the presence of God?

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

*Full list of events and registration is available at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org)'s EVENTS page*

### Small Group Registration

Small groups allow us to connect to God’s word and one another. They are made up of about 10-14 people who meet together once a week over the course of a semester. Our winter semester begins January 12. Registration at [eclife.org/groups](http://eclife.org/groups).

*Registration is required.*

### VERB

Designed to help 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students connect with God and with one another, each month’s VERB focuses on a different theme that will help students grow in their relationship with Jesus. Students will experience a friendly, welcoming environment that is both fun and encouraging.

When: Sunday, January 12, 6:00-7:30pm

Where: Greenwood Campus E-Café & Auditorium

### The 1824

Join us for an environment created specifically for young adults: 18\* to 24 years old. Each month, we gather for worship, teaching, and a chance to chat with others facing similar unique life experiences.

When: Thursday, January 30, 7:00pm

Where: Greenwood Campus Fieldhouse

*\*18-year-old attendees must be graduated seniors.*