

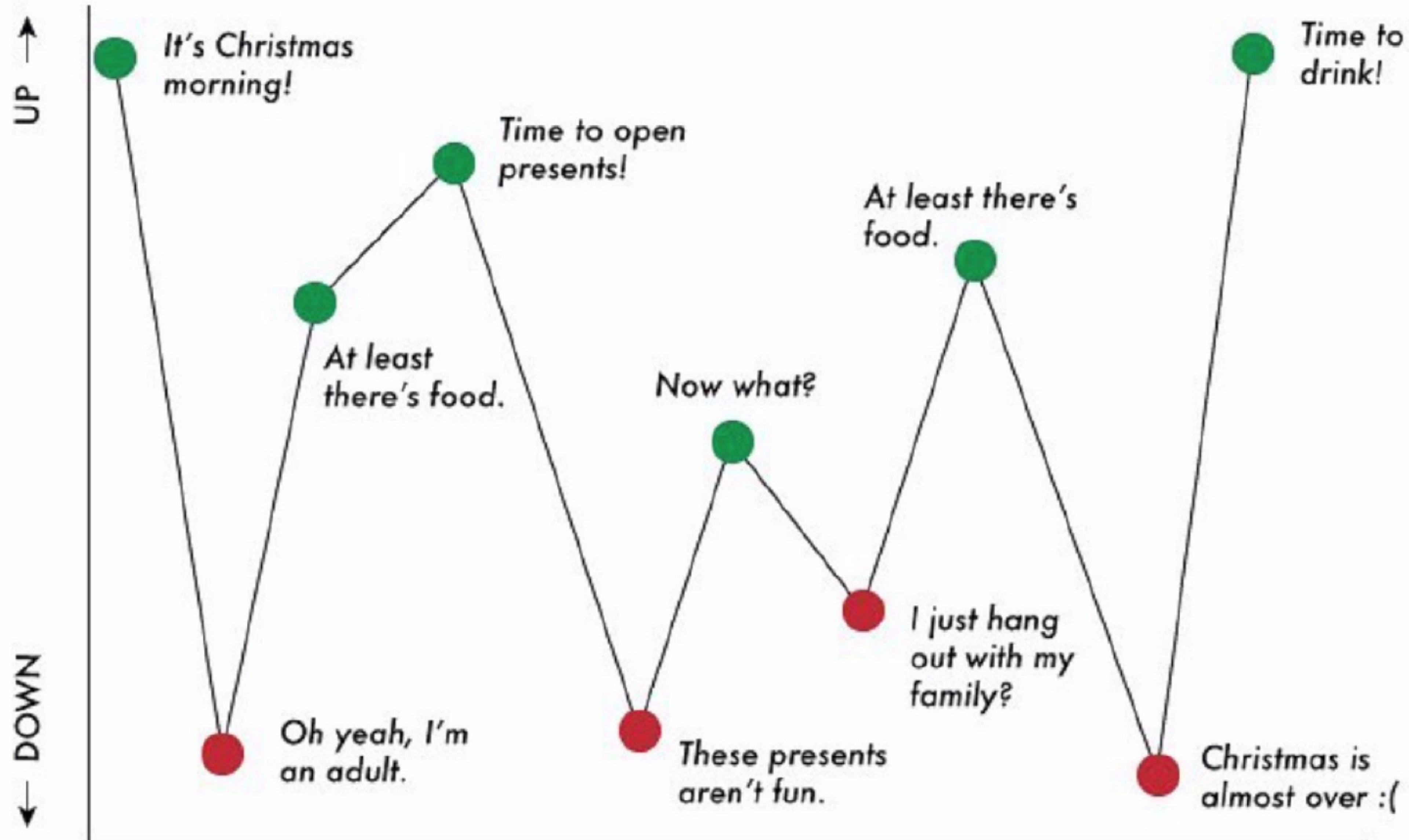
THE
Promise



*The promise
of God* Joy
brings



THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CHRISTMAS DAY



¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” ³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Matthew 2:1-6 (NLT)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. ³ The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. ⁴ And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world. ⁵ And he will be the source of peace. When the Assyrians invade our land and break through our defenses, we will appoint seven rulers to watch over us, eight princes to lead us.

Micah 5:2-5 (NLT)

Christmas is about a King who chose to Rule as a Shepherd.

JOY IN THE SHEPHERD

AS A SHEPHERD, HE CAME TO LEAD US

⁴ **And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength**, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world.

Micah 5:4 (NLT)

AS A SHEPHERD, HE CAME TO LEAD US

Ruler: one who leads with authority; one who goes before, leads, and guides.

AS A SHEPHERD, HE CAME TO CARE FOR US

⁴And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. **Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world.** ⁵**And he will be the source of peace...**

Micah 5:4-5 (NLT)