

WEEK of December 5 & 8
Preschool and Kindergarten
LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to bring good news to the world.

THE BIBLE

The Birth of John Foretold: Luke 1:5-20; 57 - 66.
(Malachi 3:1-4)

WELCOME TIME

Welcome to Joy to the World, everyone! This month is all about celebrating, since we are talking about things that happened around the time Jesus was born!

A celebration is when people get together because they want to honor someone or remember an important day. There are usually parties with lots of food, decorations, music, and of course . . . lots of noise!

ARRIVAL ACTIVITY | Drumroll, Please! **Supplies needed:** 1 drum per child, markers for decorating.

Let's create our very own hand drums to use as a noisemaker to prepare for some good news we'll hear about today!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have kids decorate their drums using markers.
2. When we are going to hear good news, we'll say, drum roll please and the kids can use their drums!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | The Birth of John Foretold, **Supplies needed:** globe

Do you know where Singapore is on this globe? *[Show kids its location on the globe]*

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 1

INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's video.*

Wow, that is some good news about Elizabeth and Zechariah! Isn't it cool that people in Singapore and everyone around the world know about the same good news as us?

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus came to bring good news to the world!

Since we're talking about Singapore this week, here is a fun fact, in Singapore they speak a language called, Mandarin Chinese — the world's second-most spoken language. Mandarin and English are the main languages of Singapore!

- How do you all hear about good news?
- How did you get it? Someone shared it with you!
- Do you remember what language people speak in Singapore?
- What good news did Zechariah and Elizabeth get in today's Bible story?
- What was the name of their baby?
- I'm so glad Jesus came to bring good news to everyone in the world!

DISCUSSION TIME

ACTIVITY | Gingerbread Sins, Supplies needed: **Gingerbread print out laminated, washable marker, paper towel.**

- **Have you ever decorated a gingerbread cookie before?** Many people all over the world like to do so during Christmas time. While we can decorate with frosting, candy, and other goodies, it's tough to decorate if the cookie is broken!
- The bad news is that we, too, were all broken on the inside, because of sin. Sin is anything we do that's wrong or anything we don't do even though it's right.
- But wait — **Jesus came to give good news to the world!** And the good news is, Jesus can wash away our sins.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Pass out laminated gingerbread figure or place the printable inside a transparent sheet protector. Give each kid a dry erase marker and an eraser labeled, "Jesus."*

- Draw some scribbles on your gingerbread person. You see how messy it can get? Sin dirties us up on the inside like that, whenever we say, do, or think about anything that is not what God wants.
- **When we pray and ask Jesus to forgive us of all our sin, do you know what happens?** He does it! He erases away our sins! Let's erase our scribbles to show what that looks like on our gingerbread person!

RESPONSE | Sticky Joy, Supplies needed: four 11 x 17 each with different label on top (my family, my friends, my neighbors, my world), sticky notes.

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the four poster boards (or pictures) around the room or on the wall. Label each of them "My Family," "My Friends," "My Neighbors," and "My World." Give each kid a few sticky notes and have them draw a picture of a few people in their lives that might fit into these categories. They can stick it on the corresponding posters.

- God puts people in our lives we can share the good news of Jesus with.
- Does everyone in your family know Jesus?
- Do you have friends or neighbors who don't go to church?
- Do you know that Jesus came to bring good news to the entire world?
- Let's go around and pray for people in our lives as we go around and place our sticky notes!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV), Supplies needed: memory verse

INSTRUCTIONS: Tape the memory verse to the floor, spaced out in a large circle. Have kids hop, crawl, or walk backwards from globe to globe, and help them say each of the words they land on.

- Great job working together to learn the memory verse for the month! Let's say it together one more time:
- "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page and Passport, Supplies needed: coloring pages, passports.

INSTRUCTIONS: Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Brush Painting, Supplies needed: paper, black markers

One of the most ancient forms of art is brush painting, and it is still used around the world, especially in countries in Asia. People used to even write letters using a brush and ink!

- Can you imagine having to share the good news we learned today using brush painting?

ACTIVITY | Good News Puppets, **Supplies needed: puppet cut outs, popsicle sticks, tape, Scissors.**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each kid a printable of the Bible story characters.
2. Have them cut them out.
3. Tape each Bible story character to a popsicle stick.
4. Have the kids retell the Bible story using the characters on their popsicle sticks.

Wherever we go, we can let people know that **Jesus came to bring good news to the world!**

PRAYER and BLESSING

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring good news to the world. As we listen to kids all around the world praising you, we thank you that good news is for everyone. No one is left out of your good news! Help us to share the good news with other people. Amen

Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and say, "You are not left out of the good news!"

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.