

WEEK of December 12 and 15
Preschool and Kindergarten
Lesson Guide



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to bring joy to the world.

THE BIBLE

The Birth of Jesus Foretold: Luke 1:26-55;
(Zephaniah 3:14-20)

WELCOME TIME

ARRIVAL ACTIVITY | Finding Joy, **Supplies needed: letters J.O.Y. in different sizes and colors.**

Say: Joy is all around us, but sometimes it's hard to spot. Let's see if you can find some letters around the room that might make up the word "joy."

INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare the letters spelling JOY taped all around the room in different sizes and colors. Have kids go around the room and find one of each letter. Then play or sing this familiar kid's [song](#) about joy for a call-and-response. Repeat several times, doing it differently each time (e.g., in a loud voice, in a whisper, in a fast way, or in a slow way).

- Great job finding and spelling joy!
- Sometimes, we can get joyful by things around us. Like a Christmas gift, cute pets, or maybe something good we do. But did you know that true joy that comes from God is deep down in our hearts?
 - Now, when I say, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,"
 - You ask, "Where?"
 - I'll say, "Down in my heart!"
- Then, we'll switch!
 - When you say, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,"
 - I'll ask, "Where?"
 - You'll say, "Down in my heart!"

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | The Birth of Jesus Foretold, Supplies needed: Globe

JOY TO THE WORLD! Does anyone have a guess where the country of Kenya is located? It is a country on the continent of Africa! **Do you know where Kenya is in the world?** *[Show kids its location on the globe by placing a Christmas sticker there.]*

INSTRUCTIONS: *Place the globe next to you.*

Here are some fun facts about Kenya:

- *They say hello in Swahili by saying, Jambo!*
- *They speak over sixty languages in their country.*
- *They have cheetahs, elephants, and flamingoes!*

So last time, remember how the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a baby?

Let's all pretend to be the angel Gabriel and fly around the room together and then find our circle to sit on.

Well, The story continues! The same angel, Gabriel. Let's watch our video for this week.

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's video.*

Angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman named Mary. Just like Zechariah was when Gabriel came to him, Mary was very scared.

Can you imagine how scared Mary was? Can you show me your scared face!

- But the angel told her not to be afraid. God was pleased with Mary so much that she was going to have a baby!
- Mary didn't understand. She wasn't married yet. How could she have a baby?

Mary was very confused. Let's all scratch our heads and pretend to think.

- Gabriel told her that she wouldn't be the mother of any baby. This baby would be the Son of God. This sounded unreal, but Mary trusted God and believed the good news!
- Then, Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth — remember Elizabeth? She already had baby John in her belly. And just when Mary told her what the angel had said . . . Elizabeth's baby jumped for joy!

Imagine that. A baby jumping up and down inside his mother's belly! Can you all jump up and down with me?

- o Mary was also filled with joy that she burst into a song about God. Mary sang about how good God is and how happy she was that God chose her!
- o Mary, Elizabeth, and baby John were so filled with joy! And I am filled with joy too visiting and hearing stories here in Africa. I can't wait to write to you again soon!

Wow, what a story! I'm so happy we have a friend sharing what she's been reading about from the Bible even as she's traveling around the world!

BIG IDEA | Jesus came to bring joy to the world!

- It's time for the Big Idea!
- Drumroll, please! *[Have kids use drums from last week or stomp their feet rapidly.]*
- Today' Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came to bring joy to the world!**

DISCUSSION TIME

ACTIVITY | Clothespin Angel, **Supplies needed: 1" circles (various colors), clothespins, markers, glue, coffee filter, pipe cleaner.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pre-cut 1" circles out of different colored construction paper for the angel's face. Have kids draw a face on a circle then help them attach it to a flat side of the clip end of the clothespin using glue dots or tacky glue. Help kids cinch up a coffee filter in the middle to create the wings and clip it with the pin. Glue a pipe cleaner halo to the back of the pin.*
- Who told Mary she was going to have a baby? That's right, the angel.
- What did Mary do when she heard this news? She sang a song to praise God.
- What happened with Elizabeth's baby when Mary greeted her? The baby jumped!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Say this month's memory verse a few times with the kids. Then set it to the tune of a song the kids know and have them sing along with an instrumental track you've prepared or while accompanied by a musician in your ministry.*

PLAY TIME

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

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page, **Supplies needed: coloring page, passport.**

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 | Globe Ornaments, **Supplies needed: plastic ornament, green paint, white paint, blue paint, string.**

INSTRUCTIONS: *Give each kid a clear, plastic ornament. Pour in about one teaspoon of green paint and have kids slowly swirl the paint around the inside of the ornament. You could use a mini funnel to add the paint. Repeat with the white paint, then the blue paint. Let it sit without the lid to dry, then add the lid and string for them when it's time for them to go home.*

ACTIVITY | Bubbly Joy! **Supplies needed: Bubbles, food coloring, paper.**

INSTRUCTIONS: *Prepare trays of colored bubble mixture. Simply pour a little bubble mixture into each tray – one for each color – and then add a little food coloring to each tray and stir gently. Have kids then blow bubbles all over your paper.*

PRAYER and BLESSING

Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to bring joy to the world! Because of Jesus, we don't need to be afraid. Help us to always be filled with joy and to share joy with others. Amen.

Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and say, "Jesus came to bring JOY to the world and you."

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