

Week of December 5 and 8 ELEMENTARY 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)

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

GRADES 1 – 3: ACTIVITY | Joyful Noisemakers, **Supplies needed: paper plates, craft stick, markers, seeds, stapler, glue dots**

- 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!
- **Have you ever been part of a big celebration?** Maybe it was someone's birthday or graduation. No matter the occasion, people get loud at celebrations!
- "Everybody make some noise" is a popular phrase emcees use to hype people up! But did you know the Bible says something similar? In the book of Psalms, for example, the whole world is called to "shout for joy" or "make a joyful noise!"
- Let's make something together that will help us make some joyful noise for God!

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have kids decorate the back of two paper plates.
- Place a glue dot on one of the inside edges of the paper plate. Place a craft stick on it and push down to secure.
- Put some corn inside the plate and place the other plate on top.
- Secure plates to each other using stapler or glue dots.



GRADE 4 AND 5 Opening Game: **Supplies needed: Ball**
Good News Ball

QUESTION | How do we celebrate good news?

We've been celebrating with noise, but what are some other ways you can celebrate?

- Dancing?
- Jumping for joy?
- Throwing a party?

Share a story from your family or culture that describes how you celebrate good news.

- There are so many different ways to celebrate, not just one. And in December, people all over the world get ready to celebrate Christmas!

Does anyone have any ideas of how they celebrate in other countries?

- Kentucky Fried Christmas Dinner, Japan. ...
- Saint Nicholas' Day, Germany. ...
- The Yule Lads, Iceland. ...
- Giant Lantern Festival, Philippines. ...

Did you know that God celebrates with us, too?

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 1

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

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What was the good news about John?
- Why was the good news so hard for Zechariah to believe?
- What happened to Zechariah after the baby was born?
- Read Luke 1:58. What did her neighbors and family members do when they heard Elizabeth's news?
- What are some things you do when you hear good news?
- Name one piece of good news you received this past week.
- What good news about God can you share with others?

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

- Well done, everyone! It *is* time for the Big Idea! And today's Big Idea is *[Have kids shake their noisemakers from earlier.] . . . Jesus came to bring good news to the world!*

VIDEO | Some Good News (SGN) **Supplies needed: Video in PowerPoint.**

- **Do you keep good news to yourself?** When I hear good news, I can't wait to tell everybody — like, my family, my friends, and my neighbors.
- Good news connects us with people all over the world. And when times seem tough, like they were during the time of Zechariah and Elizabeth, good news gives people hope!
- Not too long ago, we were all staying home to avoid getting sick. It was a tough time, and everyone was hungry for some good news.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Show the first part of this video. Stop after they celebrate the health care workers, please.*

BIBLE | Malachi 3:1–4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Malachi 3:1–4 with the group.*
- **Who do you think the messenger is, based on today's stories?** John or Jesus?
- This part of the Bible was written about 500 years before John or Jesus was born. **What does this tell you about God's good news for the world?** God has been planning it for a very long time!
- **What good news did you hear in these verses?** Jesus will come and cleanse us of sin like soap cleanses us of dirt.
 - Sin is something we all have and we all do, every time we say, do, or think about something that causes us to disobey God. But unlike dirt, it's not something we can get rid of ourselves. We all need a Savior for that.
- That's why Jesus came to earth, so that he can save us from sin. **Jesus came to bring good news to the world!** Very good news, indeed!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Gingerbread Sins, **Supplies needed: print out and markers**

- Many people in the United States and Europe make gingerbread people or houses around Christmas time. While we can decorate with frosting, candy, and other goodies, it's tough to decorate if the cookie is broken! Or maybe you can but it won't look the way you'd like.
- The bad news is that we, too, were all broken at one point. Our sins — the things we do that's wrong or the things we don't do even though it's right — kept us from knowing God fully

and having the right kind of relationship. But the good news is that Jesus came to fix that! Namely, Jesus came to cleanse away our sins.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Pass out double-sided copies of the gingerbread person such that one side says "without Jesus" and the other says "with Jesus." Either pre-cut or have kids cut out their gingerbread figure.*

- Write down different kinds of sins on the gingerbread person that's on the side of your paper marked "Without Jesus."
- But on the side that says, "With Jesus," leave the gingerbread person blank and clean!
- Take this home and flip it back and forth to remind you that with Jesus, we are cleansed of our sin!
- Jesus came to bring good news to the world!

RESPONSE | Sticky Joy Supplies needed: 11 x 17 pages with different titles at the top. (Grade 4/5 Newspaper print out)

INSTRUCTIONS: *Give each kid a stack of sticky notes to write on and stick to the corresponding poster boards. "My Family," "My Friends," "My Neighbors," "My School or Team," and "My World."*

Grade 4/5: *Create their own "Good News" newspaper. What would it be called? What would be added in? Featured stories?*

Think of some good news for people in your family, school, team, neighborhood, or the world. Write it down on a sticky note and stick it on the board it belongs on.

PRAYER and BLESSING

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring good news to the world. Thank you that no one is left out of your good news! May we always remember to share good news with people around us, especially the good news about you! Amen.

Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and say, "Good news is, Jesus came for you too!"