



WEEK ONE – JULY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Shepherds + Angels / Luke 2:8-20*

Key Question: *Who gives you joy?*

Bottom Line: *Jesus gives me joy.*

Memory Verse: *“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” – Luke 2:10 ESV*

Basic Truth: *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

Series Overview: No one likes for a party to end, so let’s keep this party going! That means you can keep all of those streamers, hats, and party horns right where they are because we have MORE to celebrate! This month, we’re celebrating Jesus because Jesus gives me joy! We’re not talking about the happiness you get from a carnival ride or a triple scoop of ice cream kind of joy. We’re talking about the joy only Jesus can give! It’s the kind of joy that we can have no matter what. It is a joy that lasts forever! So grab a handful—or two—of confetti. It’s time to start the party . . . AGAIN!

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Turkey basters, facial tissues, and yellow circle stickers

What You Do:

- Place a yellow sticker in the center of each facial tissue, one or two per child.
- Set the tissues and turkey basters on the table.
- Talk about how the tissues look like angels with yellow halos.
- Demonstrate how to drape the tissue over the turkey baster (sticker side up) and squeeze the end of the baster to puff out the air and launch the angel into the air.
- Help children with the placement of the tissue.
 - Continue as time and interest allow.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *“Friends, come gather here around the table. I have a fun activity for us today. Look at these tissues! Do you see the yellow sticker on them? What do they remind you of? (Pause.) They remind me of little angels with halos. Do you think we can make them fly? (Pause.) Let’s see! If we place the tissue on top of the turkey baster like this and then squeeze the bottom, the air inside will make it launch! (Demonstrate.) Whoa! How fun! You try! Make sure you can see the sticker when you place it on the turkey baster. (Pause.) That was SO fun making all the angels fly! In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about an angel who gave a special message to some shepherds who were in a field.”*

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP

Story Focus: Jesus came to give the world joy. An angel appears to tell some shepherds some good news that would cause great joy for all people. As in the whole world! Those shepherds went from frozen in fright to running with wonder! Joy had come into the world! The shepherds knew they needed to share the joy that Jesus gave them with EVERYONE because Jesus came to give everyone joy. Now we get to teach our preschoolers that Jesus came to give them joy too! That's worth celebrating!

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 – SMALL GROUP

Memory Verse With Motions

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Review]

Move: an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children
- Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you.
- Repeat several times.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Friends, join me over here. We have a brand-new Memory Verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. ‘I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from*

chin to palm) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,' (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*)

- **DURING THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Now let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,’ (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again.” (*Repeat several times.*)
- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “The Bible teaches us that an angel said that to some shepherds to let them know that Jesus was born. Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Who gives you joy? [Bottom Line] Jesus gives me joy.** Let’s say that one more time, friends. **Who gives you joy? [Bottom Line] Jesus gives me joy.**”

Find the Joy

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: “Find the Joy” Activity Page, cardstock, and star stickers

What You Do:

- Set the Activity Pages and star stickers in the circle
- Ask children to point out all the angels they see on the page.
- Encourage children to point to the word “Joy” on the page.
- Help them read it with you.
- Ask children to cover every word they find on the page with a star sticker.
- Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Friends, join me over here.”

- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- “What do you see on your paper? (*Pause.*) Angels! That’s right. Were there angels in our Bible Story today? (*Pause.*) Yes! The angels appeared to the shepherds. They brought good news of great joy about Jesus! I see words on your paper too! Put your finger on one of the words. (*Pause.*) It says, ‘Joy.’ Put a star sticker on top of the word. (*Pause.*) Now look all over your page for the word ‘joy’ and cover each one you find with a star. (*Pause.*) Great! There are lots of angels and lots of joy!”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “The angel told the shepherds: ‘I bring you good news that will give great joy to ALL people. Jesus, God’s Son, has been born!’ Then the whole sky was filled with angels. They were praising God saying, ‘*Glory to God in the highest!*’ (*Luke 2:14 ESV*) The shepherds ran to see Baby Jesus! They were so excited that Jesus had come to be their friend forever that they told everyone. Because Jesus came to bring everyone joy. Tell me: **Who gives you joy? [Bottom Line] Jesus gives me joy!**”