

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: Joy is being happy with what you have

Key Question: Why is joy important?

Memory Verse: "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" **Luke 2:10-11**

Overview: We're starting a Christmas series today! Christmas is such a fun time of year with all the lights, decorations and of course the presents under the tree! It's a time of excitement, yummy food, family gatherings and surprises. These are all great things to look forward to but we need to make sure we don't forget **who** gives us all the things we like to celebrate this time of year. God is the ultimate gift giver to us and he wants us to have certain things. Today, we're going to focus on the gift of joy. God wants us to have joy and lots of it! Joy is being happy with everything we have. Here are four reasons we should have joy. **1.** We are alive and able to experience the magic of Christmas! **2.** We have stuff. We all have plenty of toys and are getting more this Christmas. Some kids don't have any toys of their own or even a house to live in with their family. **3.** We have people in our lives who love us. **4.** The most important thing we have is Jesus. He's the main reason we should have joy this Christmas because it marks the day he came to live among us so he could die on a cross to pay for our sins. And, when we trust in Jesus, we get to live in heaven with him some day. So, be full of joy this Christmas as you think about all the things God has given you.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** As a class, share the things you look most forward to at Christmas.
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Philippians 4:4-5](#). What does it mean to have the joy of the Lord? How can you share that joy with others?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Do your group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - What did you learn about joy today?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: Christmas is a fun time of year but it's important to remember what Christmas is really about.

Answer: Because joy reminds us to be thankful for everything God has given us. God gives us everything we **have** and everything we **need**. Instead of wanting more, we should thank God for what we already have.

Bonus Questions: What are you thankful for in your life? List some things God has blessed you with.

4-5th: What happens to people who are never satisfied with what they have? How does that attitude dishonor God?

The joy of the Lord means we are happy and thankful for all that God has given us through Jesus. Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we have the power to live a life that honors God. Jesus also provides the way for us to live in heaven some day. Now, those are reasons to be full of joy! We can share this joy, first and foremost, by sharing the truth of Jesus with others. We can also do it by serving others in need, being a good friend, and being an encourager to those around us.

Allow each kid to share.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities 2nd-5th

Option #1

Candy Cane Game

- Give each kid a candy cane game (pg 5)
- Give each kid a Bible (if you don't have enough Bibles, have kids pair up)
- As a class, you will read each verse and find its corresponding meaning for the candy cane.
 - Read a verse together and then match it to one of the statements on the right. Once you find a match, have kids write the verse address on the correct blank

Supplies needed

- candy cane game (pg 5), one per kid
- Bibles
- Pens/Pencils

Bonus Activity:

Play **Find the Book in the Bible**

Have kids pair up. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to see who can find the books below. Fastest team has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

Books: Isaiah, Matthew, 1 Peter

Option #2

Joy Ornament Craft

- Give each kid a cup and pipe cleaner
- Give each kid an ornament template (pg 6)
- Have kids cut out each template and color
- Have kids glue the circle on one side of the cup and the verse on the other
- Give each kid a bell
- Have kids hold their cup upside down and insert both ends of the pipe cleaner into the hole on the bottom of the cup (doing this will create a loop on the outside so they can hang it on their tree.
- Then, have kids tip the cup so they can see the loose ends of the pipe cleaner on the inside of the cup. Have kids string the bell onto one end of the cleaner and have them twist the ends of the cleaners together to hold the bell in place
- If time allows, give kids Christmas stickers to add to their ornament

Supplies needed

- small red solo cups, pre-punch hole in the bottom
- green pipe cleaners, one per kid
- small bells, one per kid
- Ornament template (pg 6), one set per kid
- scissors
- crayons
- Christmas stickers

Bonus Activity:

Play **Bible Hangman**

Words or phrases: have joy, Christmas, Jesus loves you

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. Joy is being _____ with what you have.
2. We should be joyful because:
 - We have _____.
 - We have _____.
 - We have _____ who love us.
 - We have _____.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. What do you look most forward to at Christmas?
2. What is joy? Why is it important?
3. Why should you be happy with the stuff you already have?
4. List the people who are most important to you. How can you show them how thankful you are to have them in your life?
5. Why should Jesus be the most important person in your life?
6. Read [Philippians 4:4-5](#). What does it mean to have the joy of the Lord? How can you share that joy with others?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

Luke 2:10-11

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week

- Read [Psalm 71:23](#). Ransom means to rescue. From what has Jesus set us free? Why should that make us joyful?
- Read [Romans 15:13](#). Why should we trust God? How does he help us?
- Read [Psalm 16:11](#). Where can we live with God forever? Who do we need to trust in to get there?

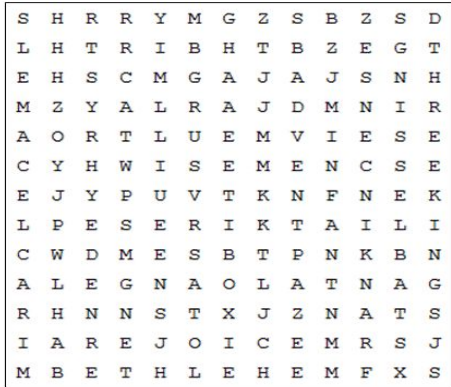
Parent Signature _____



ACTIVITY #1



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



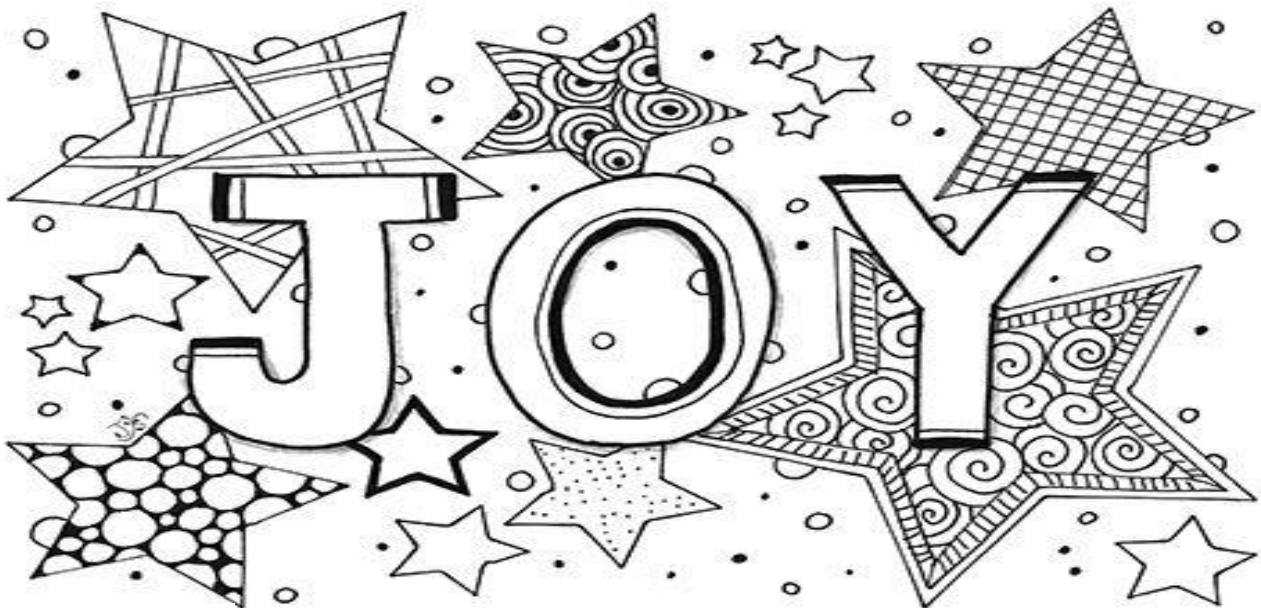
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BIG IDEA

KEY QUESTION

MEMORY VERSE

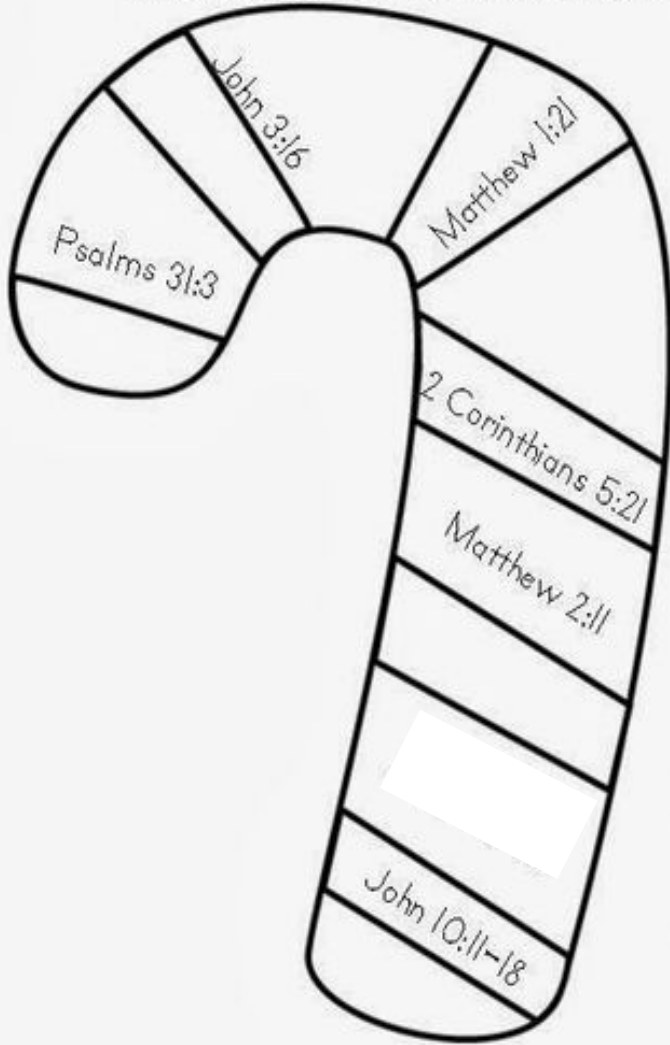
COLOR



Name: _____

Look up the verses on the Candy Cane to find out the meaning behind the candy.

Write the verse address to each meaning.



1. The hard candy reminds us that Jesus is our "rock" on whom we can depend.

2. The peppermint flavor reminds us of the spices from the wise men

3. The white in the candy reminds us of how Jesus is sinless and holy.

4. The shape reminds us of the Staff and that Jesus is our Good Shephard

5. Turned upside down, We se the letter "J" for the name of Jesus.

6. The color red reminds us of God's love for us that He sent his son to die for our sin.



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Luke 2:10-11



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