

Alley “All Together Activities”—December 13th, 2020

Today’s Bible Story: Joyful, Joyful (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Today’s Key Question: What are your plans for Christmas?

Today’s Bottom Line: You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- Let’s open up with a Christmas Chat & Doodle
- Provide paper and markers for anyone who wants to draw while the group is chatting.
- Today’s Christmas Chat:
 - What is joy?
 - What brings you joy at Christmas?
 - What makes a Christmas joyful?
 - Are you having a joyful Christmas season so far?

2. Craft Stick Hockey

What You Need: Wide craft sticks, solo cups, small jingle bells, timer

What You Do:

- **Pair Up** kids to compete against one another, and give each competitor 5 small jingle bells, a cup, and a craft stick.
- Kids will compete to see who has the highest score out of 5 attempts to shoot their jingle bells in the other person’s cup with their craft stick, alternating turns. If tied, play again until there is a clear winner.
- If time allows, **repeat** the game another time or have the top three or four compete for the championship.

What You Say:

“Last week we talked about an Old Testament promise from God that He would send a Savior. And today, the story picks up in the New Testament of the Bible, hundreds of years later. Out of nowhere, Jesus shows up on the scene, and changes the world forever.”

3. Discussion Questions

- What are your family’s plans for Christmas?
- Do you like having set plans, loose plans, or no plans? (Ask kids to elaborate on their responses.)
- How was Jesus a part of God’s plan all along?
- What does it mean to you to know that God sent Jesus for you? How does it make you feel?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: “Joy Memory Verse Cards”, pens, yarn, Bibles, markers, scissors

What You Do:

- **Pass** out Bibles and give each student a verse card.
- **Ask** the students to look up their verse and answer this question on the back:
What’s the reason for JOY according to this verse?

- **Once** they write their answer on the back, have them decorate the card and attach the yarn to make a loop.
- **Have** the students hang the card on the Christmas tree in your room.

Note: Below are the potential answer to the question, but there really is no right or wrong answer. The goal is to let kids think about what the verse means to them.

Luke 2:10-11

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Our Savior

Psalm 33:21

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? We can trust Him (Overflowing with hope, NIV)

Romans 15:13

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? We're filled with hope

Matthew 1:21

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Jesus saved us (Jesus saved us from our sins, NIV)

John 3:16

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Eternal life

1 Samuel 2:1

What's the reason for JOY according to this verse? Strength (Deliverance, NIV)

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Foam Dice (1 per service), Instruction Sheet (1 per service)

What You Do:

- **Tell** your group that you're going to end your "JOY"-filled day by praying together with the J-O-Y acronym.
- **Show** them the die and **explain** that everyone will get a chance to roll, and they'll pray aloud (a one sentence prayer) based on what number they land on.
Note: If anyone is uncomfortable praying aloud, encourage them to be brave and do it anyway, but don't force kids to pray aloud.
 - **J** is for Jesus- thank God for Jesus, our Savior
 - **O** is for others- pray for someone else in need or thank God for someone special in your life
 - **Y** is yourself- thank God for His plan for your life or something specific you want to praise Him for
- **Give** everyone a chance to roll and pray, then **close** by praying aloud over the whole group:

Dear God, thank You so much for the joy we have in You this Christmas season and always! Thank You for sending Jesus for us—we needed a Savior, and You gave us Jesus! I thank You for each kid sitting here today—they are all special to me and even more so to You. Thank You for how You made them each special and beautiful and smart and funny! We praise You for the plan You have for us and that we can trust You no matter what. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

EXTRA TIME SHEET: *Christmas Song Fill In*