

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

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

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 (NIRV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Choose a kid to think of one Christmas themed object.
- Tell them not to say what they are thinking about but to keep it to themselves.
- Invite the rest of the kids to guess the object by asking only “yes” or “no” questions.
- Set a limit of 20 questions.
- Continue playing until each kid/several kids have had a chance to think of a Christmas object.

2. Angel, Bow, Tree

What You Need: Angel, Bow, Tree Cards (set of 3 per child), “Questions and Answers” Activity Page (1 per service)

What You Do:

- Give each team leader a Questions and Answers Sheet.
- Give each child a set of Angel, Bow and Tree Cards
- Tell kids that you will read a question that has three possible answers.
 - An angel, a bow, or a tree marks each answer.
 - Kids will decide which of the three answers is the correct answer.
 - Leader will read a question and the three possible answers out loud. You may need to repeat the multiple choices so kids remember which answer goes with which symbol.
 - Give the kids time to choose their answer and hold up the correct card.
 - Leader gives the correct answer, kids can keep track of how many they got right.

What You Say:

“Mary was an ordinary person—like you and me. She was going to get married to Joseph and live a normal life. But then the mighty angel Gabriel showed up with something incredible to announce! How did Mary feel when Gabriel showed up? (*She was very upset.*) How do think she felt when he told her that she would be the mother of the Savior of the world who everyone had been waiting for? I bet she felt excited and overwhelmed. I would have felt all kinds of feelings, too!

“In spite of feeling all those emotions, Mary realized that God had a perfect plan for her life. It would look very different then she had ever imagined. But God had chosen her to be Jesus’ mom! God had chosen her to raise the Savior who would save His people from their sins. Wow! Mary probably felt a lot of things, but one of the emotions Mary felt was joy! She was so joyful that she burst into a song of thanks to God!

“Did you know God has a perfect plan for your life, too? He does! It’s a really, really good one. Even when unexpected things happen in your life, you can find joy in knowing that God is with you and He is always working toward the good plan He has for you. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because God has a plan for you.**”

3. Stuff the Stocking

What You Need: 2 Large Stockings (per Campus), One Plastic Candy Cane (per kid), Carpet Tape (1 Roll per Campus)

What You Do:

- Mark 2 lines on the carpet, distanced from one another.
- Set up a Large Stocking about 6 feet from each line.
- Divide the group into 2 Teams and have them line up behind their carpet tape line.
- Give each kid a plastic Candy Cane.
- On your "GO!" teams will toss their candy canes, one at a time towards the Stocking, trying to either make it into the Stocking or ring it. If they make it, they grab their Candy Cane and sit down and cheer their team on.
- If they miss, they run to grab their Candy Cane, and return to end of their line to try again.
- First team to either make or ring all their Candy Canes, WINS!
- Play a few rounds as time and interest allows.

4. Promise Jump

What You Need: Small craft sticks (2 per kid)

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around you.
- Show the kids two craft sticks.
- Promise the kids that you will place the sticks two feet apart and jump over both sticks with just one jump.
- Ask the group if they think you can keep your promise.
- Jump over the sticks to demonstrate that you kept your promise.
- Move the sticks farther apart, and make the same promise. (*Make sure you can jump the distance you moved the sticks so you can keep your promise.*)
- Again, ask the kids if they think you can keep your promise.
- Jump over the sticks successfully.
- Next, move the sticks so far apart that it's obvious you can't jump over them in one jump.
- This time, don't promise to jump over the sticks.
- Ask the kids how they'd feel if you promised to jump over the sticks with one jump.
- Attempt to jump over the sticks.
- Give each kid two sticks.
- Instruct them to figure out how far apart they can place their sticks to fulfill a promise to jump over them with one jump.
- Ask the kids to demonstrate their jumps.

What You Say:

"Good job figuring out how far you could jump to keep your promise. When my sticks were close together, was it easy for you to trust that I would keep my promise? How would you have felt if I had promised to jump over the sticks when they were very far apart? Even if I had made a promise that I could jump over the sticks that were far apart, would you have trusted me to keep my promise?"

"It really makes sense to only promise things that you know you can do. And yet, there are times when you and other people you know, might not keep their promises. The good news is that when God makes a promise, He always keeps it. God always does what He says He will do. God promised His people over and over that He would send a Savior to rescue them. At Christmas, God sent Jesus. He kept His promise like He always does."

“When you remember that God kept His promise to send Jesus at Christmas, it can help you have hope in any situation. Since God always keeps His promises, that means that He will always keep His promises to you. What has He promised you? He has promised that He will always be with you. He has promised that He is always working for good, even when things are hard. Because God always keeps His promises, you can have hope that God will keep those promises, too.

“Maybe your family was impacted by COVID-19. That might mean that your Christmas will look different this year. You might not get all the gifts you want, or you might not be able to celebrate Christmas with your family and friends like you have in the past. No matter what happens, it’s important to remember that **we can have hope because God keeps His promises.**”

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY: Christmas Song Fill-In

What You Need: “Christmas Song Fill-In” Activity Page (1 page per kid), pens (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Have the kids fill in the blanks on song one of the song sheets.
- After they fill in the blanks, pick a few to sing together with the new, silly lyrics.
- Do Song 2, or let them take it home to do with their family/friends.