



# Children's Ministry

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

ADVENT WEEK 4

## JESUS IS OUR JOY

ISAIAH 35; LUKE 2

### KEY POINT

Jesus is our joy.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our joy? Jesus is our joy!

### MEMORY VERSE

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son. Galatians 4:4

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

I think joy can best be learned from kids. There's nothing like hearing children laugh at silly songs or watching tiny babies giggle at funny faces people make at them. Or if you'd like to shed tears of joy, watch a clip of a child hearing her mother's voice for the first time. These are simple joys.

Joy is the ability to experience deep gladness no matter the circumstances of life. Sometimes as we grow up, we take things like funny faces and silly songs for granted, or even the sound of the voices of people we love. Sometimes we can be so overwhelmed by our circumstances that joy seems hard to find.

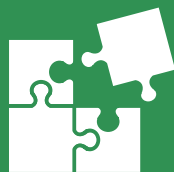
How are your circumstances impacting your joy this season?

The people hearing the words of Isaiah, and those later described in Luke's Gospel, lived in difficult times. Read Isaiah 35 and note that it describes a day when God will overwhelm His people with joy. Next, read Luke 2:6-18. Notice the angel's words to the shepherds that this news will bring "great joy for all the people" (v 10).

Born into difficult circumstances and laid in an animal feeding trough, this new baby probably still had funny faces made at Him. And at some point, He heard the voice of His mother for the first time. The difference in this story is that Jesus doesn't just teach us about joy; He is the source of it! Jesus is our joy!

— **Matt Irvine**  
*Pastor and Editor*  
*Contributor to Wonder Ink*

# WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with  
children as service  
starts.

## WELCOME

Play the Waiting For Jesus Spotify playlist from your phone as you welcome children in and throughout the service. Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access it!



## MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In”:

But when the fullness,  
but when the fullness,  
but when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth His son.  
Galatians 4:4

## THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Toddlers & Twos:** Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

**Threes & Fours:** Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

# CHRISTMAS PARTY!



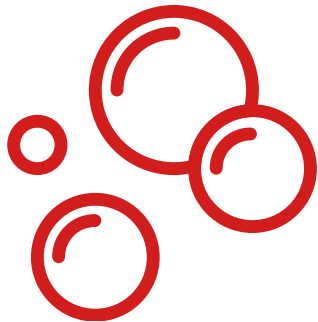
Celebrate Jesus' birth through snacks, games, and more!

## "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS" PARTY!

Use the provided bubble machine and bag of party supplies to set up a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party!

Serve the provided special snack and sing "Happy Birthday". Throughout the morning, sing Christmas songs together in worship. Praise God for sending Jesus and celebrate!

Every child will take home a special gift. Remind children that we give gifts because Jesus was sent to us and He is the ultimate gift.



# BUILDING BLOCKS



Learn more about the background of today's lesson.

## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: JOY

### WHO?

Isaiah was God's messenger to the nation of Judah during an unstable time who foretold of the coming Savior. The shepherds near Bethlehem were the first to hear of Jesus' birth and the first-ever evangelists, who told everyone about the child.

### WHAT?

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that "the eyes of those who are blind will be opened" when He came (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus showed what the kingdom of God is like when He healed many who were sick. When Jesus returns, He will fix and restore all that is broken and disordered.

### WHERE?

At the time of Jesus' birth, the shepherds lived in fields near Bethlehem, located about six miles south of Jerusalem in the region of Judea. Jesus was born in the humble setting of Bethlehem, instead of the glamorous palace of a king.

### WHEN?

Jesus was born about 700 years after Isaiah wrote about God's "coming" to save His people. At the time, Isaiah's audience probably thought about how God would save Judah from physical destruction. But God "comes" to His people in physical form when Jesus is born.



# BIBLE TIME



Review the Bible lesson with your class.

## BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

*Today's lesson is about Jesus' birth! Use the Bible Story Picture and a baby doll as you tell the story.*

Many years before Jesus was born, God told a man named Isaiah that one day, God would send a Savior—Jesus! Can you clap and cheer? *(Encourage children to clap and cheer and say, "Jesus!")*

When Jesus was born, his mom, Mary, put Him in a manger. *(Hold up the baby doll.)*

After Jesus was born, God sent an angel to tell a group of shepherds the good news. Shepherds take care of sheep. Can you say, "bahhhh" like a sheep? *(Encourage children to say "bahhhh" like a sheep.)*

The shepherds were so excited to hear the good news about Jesus that they rushed off to go see the baby! *(Hold up the baby doll again.)* The shepherds were filled with excitement and joy. We can have joy because of Jesus too!

## CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!



## THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

*Our lesson today is from the Bible about when Jesus was born! Let's find out from the Bible what happened! Use the provided baby doll and Bible Story Picture as you tell the story.*

Many years before Jesus was born, God's people were sad and worried because they needed to be close to God and be forgiven for things they said and did that were wrong. That is sin. Can you give a thumbs-down? *(Encourage children to give a thumbs-down.)*

God told a man named Isaiah an amazing promise to share with people. He said that one day, God would send a Savior to fix everything that sin messed up and let us be close to God again! Can you clap and cheer? *(Encourage children to clap and cheer.)* So the people waited.

God was talking about Jesus! Jesus was born 700 years later. A man named Joseph and a woman named Mary were Jesus' parents on earth. When it was time for Jesus to be born, his mom, Mary, had the baby and put Him in a manger—that's a feeding bin for animals. *(Hold up the baby doll and rock it, then pass it around and let children take turns rocking the baby.)*

After Jesus was born, God sent an angel to tell a group of shepherds the good news. Shepherds are people who take care of sheep. Can you say, "bahhhh" like a sheep? *(Encourage children to say "bahhhh.")* Then a whole bunch of angels came, and they all praised God. The shepherds were so excited to hear the good news about Jesus that they rushed off to go see the baby! *(Rock the baby again.)*

The shepherds were filled with excitement and joy. We can have joy because of Jesus too! Jesus came to bring true joy that lasts forever. Jesus is our joy!

## CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

After many years of waiting, the Savior is born. His name is Jesus, and He brings joy to the world!

# CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. Who heard the good news about Jesus from an angel?
4. Who is our joy? Jesus is our joy!

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**