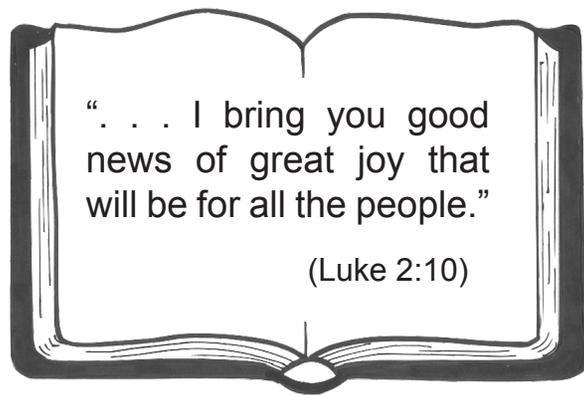




Rejoicing Hearts --Our Savior has Come



3rd Sunday: Dec. 13

TRUTH SEEKER



ACTIVITY

Written & Illustrated
by Anita Brandon

“Teachable Moments”

OBJECTIVE: This lesson will focus on the third week of ADVENT with the lighting of the third candle (pink), scripture and songs about the JOY that GOD’S brings to the earth through JESUS’ coming--the fulfillment of GOD’S promises through the prophets.

★ **Simple Truths:** The simple truths this week draw our thoughts to the Gift of JOY GOD has given, the importance of accepting this gift and then His desire for us to share it with others.

★ **Activity Pages:** The Parent pages (Simple Truths, Suggested Advent Activities) will help you navigate these learning times, but the actual activity pages for your children contain a lot of information as well. Remember, this is just a beginning; in your reading of God’s Word you will no doubt find additional info to include in future years. Don’t forget to continue the advent wreath coloring from the previous lesson, and add another page (JOY) and the pink chain to the wall-art.

#1 - PRAYER TIME

STORY TIME: Rejoicing Hearts

#2 - Expressions of JOY

Sharing the JOY

CHRISTMAS JOY

#3 - I Wonder --questions to ponder & discuss

★ **Enjoy singing together:** *Joy to the World*

★ **Memory Verse: Luke 2:10** This message given by an angel of the Lord to the shepherds can also be a great reminder for us. This lesson will help us remember that GOD’S news is also good and results in JOY in our hearts.

(Permission granted to make extra copies of coloring or game pages for other children in the family as needed.)

Simple Truths

1

GOD'S Plan brings JOY to the world

Why does the world need JOY?

--Ever since the beginning of creation and the entrance of sin into the world, the condition of man's heart has become darker and darker. Notice the living environment in the following verse.

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."
(Isaiah 9:2)*

--We need to be rescued/saved from this sin that darkens our hearts.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

How did this JOY appear?

--GOD'S JOY came to us in the person of JESUS, our Messiah.

*"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them--the LORD, who remains faithful forever."
(Isaiah 146: 5 & 6)*

--This sounds like a life of JOY.

*". . . I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
(John 10:10)*

Who first received this joyous message?

--To Mary and Joseph

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

--The humble shepherds; resulted in joy (excitement).

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke 2:20) (Message from the angels.)

2

GOD'S gift of JOY needs to be accepted

Why don't some people enjoy GOD'S JOY?

--Perhaps their lives have the wrong focus; they don't receive (accept) GOD'S gift that gives joy---JESUS.

"He came to that which was his own, but His own did not receive Him." (John 1:11)

Does GOD'S JOY change our lives?

--When we become GOD'S children, He brings great change into our lives: He gives JOY. This is the scene at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem:

"And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. . . ." (Nehemiah 12:43)

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God."
(John 1:11 & 12)*

3

GOD wants me to share His JOY

How does Christ's birth provide examples of receiving and sharing JOY?

--Mary's song reveals this JOY:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. . ." (Luke 1:46 & 47)

--The Shepherd's heard the Good News of Great JOY, they saw it and they shared it with others.

"But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

". . . Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2:15 & 16)

*"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."
(Luke 2:17 & 18)*

--The Wisemen saw Him; they responded with worship: ". . . they bowed down and worshiped."
(Matt. 2:10 & 11)

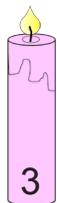
Suggested Activities for the ADVENT Celebration



Sunday, NOV. 29: **“Prophet’s Candle”**
 Focus: HOPE
 Scripture: Jere. 23:5 & 6; Isaiah 9:2,6 & 7
 Carol to sing: ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***



Sunday, DEC. 5: **“Bethlehem’s Candle”**
 Focus: LOVE
 Scripture: Luke 1:26-31; Luke 2:1,3-5; Matt.1:20-24;
 Micah 5:2; Gal. 4:4; I John 4:10
 Carol to sing: ***O Come to My Heart***
O Little Town of Bethlehem



Sunday, DEC. 12: **“Shepherd’s Candle”**
 Focus: JOY
 Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:10-11
 Carol to sing: ***Joy to the World***

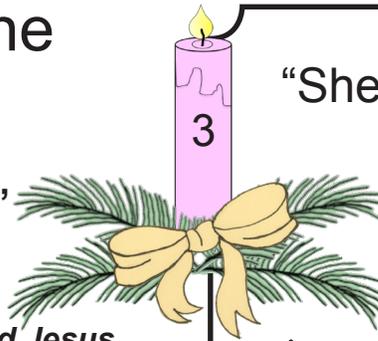
Using the letters for JOY, encourage discussion for discovering ways to apply this “God-given gift” in individual lives as well as your family.

JESUS
OTHERS
YOU

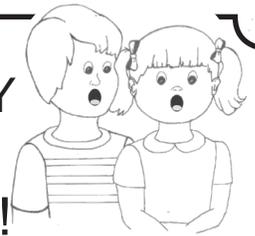
--Always put your love for and obedience to Jesus **first in your life.**

--Think before you speak or act toward others.

--**You** do need to think about your needs and desires, but not before **Jesus** and **Others.**

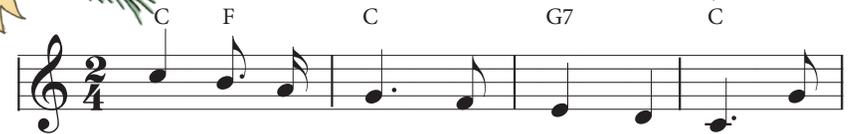


“Shepherd’s Candle” - JOY



Joy to the World!

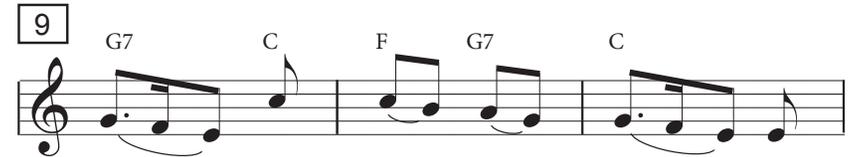
Isaac Watts (Psalm 98)
 Music: G.F. Handel
 Arr. by Lowell Mason



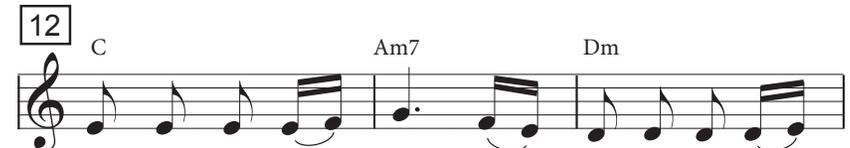
Joy to the world! --- the Lord is come. Let
 He rules the world with truth and grace, And



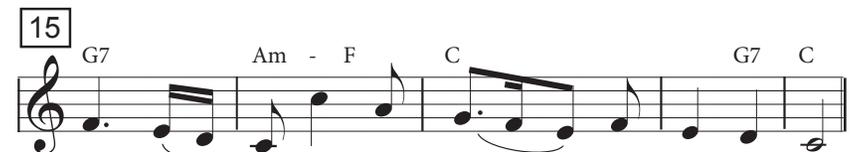
earth re - ceive her King; Let ev' - ry
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries



heart pre - pare Him room and
 of His right - eous - ness and



heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 love, And won - ders, and won - ders of His love.

REMEMBER, TRUTH SEEKERS-----

Ask God to guide your study and help you learn.



Prayer Time



STORY TIME

Rejoicing Hearts

Preparing our Hearts for the Christmas Season

By lighting another candle this week, reading Bible selections, and singing a favorite carol, we can *prepare* for Christmas by thinking about JOY. Do you get excited about Christmas time? Yes, the decorations, the presents, the candy, the music, the lights; it is all very exciting. But. . . after December 25th, we put all that away until next year. How sad, but if the excitement of Christmas is in our hearts we can celebrate it all year long, for ever and ever.

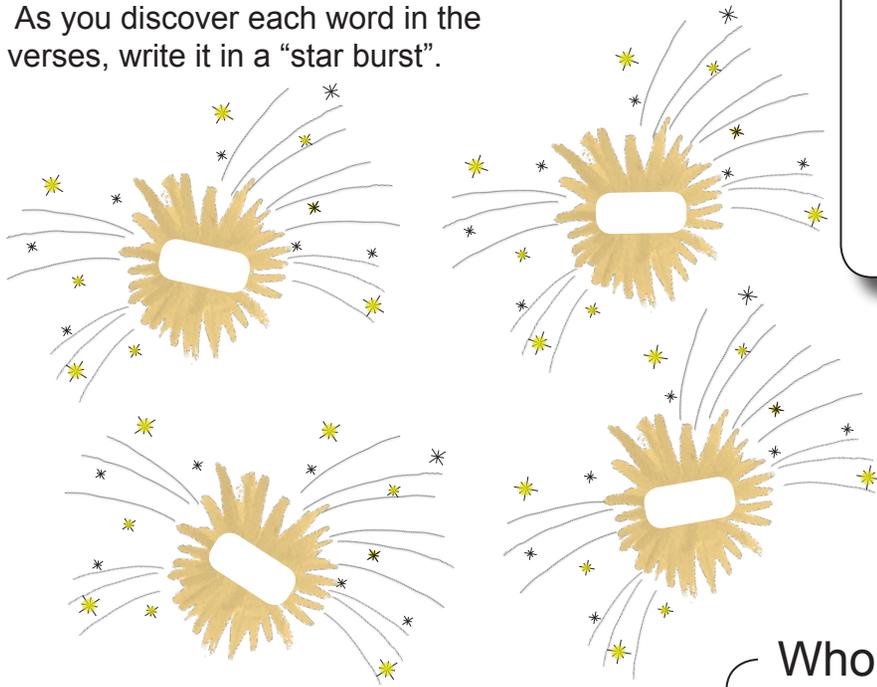
Let's take a look at some of the special people in this story GOD gives to us in the Bible. MARY, the mother of JESUS was full of joy when the angel Gabriel told her she was going to have a baby. The birth of children in any family brings great excitement in just knowing, then in the waiting, and finally in the birth.

GOD sent this exciting news to SHEPHERDS by an angel of the Lord----- "Your Savior has been born in Bethlehem." The angel told the shepherds they would find a baby, wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger.

All of a sudden, the shepherds saw and heard many more angels---praising God. Wow! After the angels left, the shepherds *were so excited* that they decided to go to Bethlehem to find this baby. Being full of JOY, the shepherds also told many others about JESUS and they were amazed.

Expressions of JOY

As you discover each word in the verses, write it in a "star burst".



Word Choices

- joy
- delight
- rejoices
- overjoyed

Who Said It?

Put the number for the verse.

Wisemen

Mary

God's people

Shepherds

- 1 "When they saw the star, they were _____." (Matt. 2:10)
- 2 "I bring you good news of great _____." (Luke 2:10)
- 3 "I _____ greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. (Isaiah 61:10)
- 4 "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit _____ in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47)

Sharing the JOY

What brings you JOY this CHRISTMAS?

Put a check in the ornaments that bring you JOY and help you give JOY to others, **then color an ornament on the tree** on the next page.

Singing Carols



Reading the Christmas story from the Bible.



Lighting another Advent candle



Making cookies and sharing them with others.



Praying (talking to God, thanking Him for sending JESUS to us.



Being kind to brothers and/or sisters.



Obeying Mother and Father.



Writing a letter or Christmas card to friend from church.



Helping a homeless family in some way.



Giving a gift to a friend.



Others



CHRISTMAS JOY



I WonderTHINK about it!
? ? ?Use your imagination!

An illustration of a young girl with orange braided hair and a boy with brown hair, both seen from behind. The girl is pointing upwards towards a thought bubble. Several other thought bubbles are scattered around them, each containing a question and a number.

1
How do think Mary & Joseph prepared for Jesus' birth?

2
How did your parents prepare for your birth?

3
Do you think Mary & Joseph were excited?

4
Does the Bible mention animals in the birth of Jesus?

5
If you had been a shepherd, how would you respond to the angels?

6
Why was JOY so important for the world anyway?

Starting with #1, discuss your answer with your parents then circle the number.