



J O Y

THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS AND
GREAT JOY FOR EVERYONE.

TEACH

Joy—Jesus Brings Good News of Great Joy!

Weekly, we hear people make announcements. Whether our teachers are telling us about an upcoming assignment or field trip, or our pastor is talking about what is happening at church in the coming weeks. Announcements can also come through emails, letters, text messages, or on social media. But have you ever heard an announcement from an angel? Picture you and your family sitting in your living room together, when all of a sudden, an angel appears to tell you about Jesus and the joy that comes from knowing Him! You would be amazed, and if you didn't know who Jesus was, you would most definitely want to find out! In this week's passage, an angel appears to some shepherds who were extremely startled at first.

Open your Bible to Luke 2:8-20 and read this story together as a family.

You see in the story that the shepherds were so amazed by what the angel had told them that they went to Bethlehem to see the baby. They had been awaiting the promised Messiah to Israel and knew the prophecy from the book of Isaiah, so when they saw baby Jesus lying in the manger, they were overcome with joy. Their joy consisted of two responses. First, they went to see baby Jesus, who was God's Son now in human form. Second, they went away telling everyone about what they had seen. Like the shepherds, we should constantly be giving glory to God for our salvation and going to tell others about Him.

The same Good News that the angel told the shepherds is what we should be telling others—The Gospel! Gospel literally means “good news,” and the Good News is all about Jesus! You can go and tell others about Jesus, so they can experience the same joy you have!

SHOW

Younger Kids:

Watch our on-demand video program for children, KidVue. Watch the episode for this week about “Joy” on kidvue.org.

Older Kids:

Watch BibleProject's video (bibleproject.com/videos/chara-joy) about what the word “Joy” means in the Bible.

TABLE ACTIVITY

Gingerbread Shepherds
Items Needed:

- Gingerbread men cookies
- Multiple colors of icing
- Sprinkles, candies, candy canes, etc.

Decorate your gingerbread man like one of the shepherds who would have been visited by the angels the night Jesus was born. Get creative by adding a candy cane as a staff and even making sheep cookies as well.

While decorating your cookies, discuss and write down as a family how you can show the joy you have in Jesus to those you spend the holidays with (friends, family, neighbors, etc.).

PARENTS

Sharing the Gospel with others is one of the greatest things God has called each and every one of us to do. But, it can often seem difficult or terrifying. Why is that? Often, the fear of rejection keeps us from sharing the Gospel. Think back to week eight of Fight for Your Family when the foundational truth was Community and World. (Visit bellevue.org/family for reference.) All people in all places need the joy of Jesus just as much as we do. There is no better way to get out of your comfort zone and fight this fear of rejection than by telling others about the joy you have in Christ during the Christmas season. If you want your children to have an active faith, give them one to imitate.

The important thing about teaching your children to share their faith while they're young is that it sets them up to live out their faith when they are older and even when others are possibly mocking them for it. Help your children see how Jesus changed your life and brought you so much joy that you would go and tell anyone about Him.

ASK

Younger Kids:

1. What did the shepherds do when they heard about Jesus?
2. When was a time you felt joy?

Older Kids:

1. What does joy look like? (Being in a relationship with Christ and living for Heaven.)
2. How can you actively show others that Jesus changed your life?

SING

Parents, pick your favorite version of “Joy to the World” and sing along as a family. This song is about joy coming to the world through the birth of Jesus.