

# Joy

## Joy to the World, The Lord has Come

### DEVO:

Read the account of the birth of Jesus from **Luke 2:1-20**.

Close your eyes and imagine this...It's a cool, dark, peaceful night. The moon is shining and you can see stars all around you in the clear sky. You are out in the field with your sheep, just taking in all the sounds around you. Your sheep are Baaaaa.....Baaaaa.....Baaaa-ing....the sound of crickets are chirp.....chirp....chirping, and in the distance a wolf is howl....howl....howling. Your shepherd friend is resting his head on a rock out in the field, and he is snore....snore....snoring....ZZZZZZZ! You are just starting to nod off yourself, when suddenly out of nowhere you hear, *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great **joy** that will be for all the people."* Eyes wide open, heart racing, you nudge your snoring shepherd buddy awake and see an angel of the Lord standing before you!

Wow! Would you be scared? I know I would have been. What do you think was going through their minds? The angel told them, "Do not be afraid!" I'm sure the angel's assurance gave the shepherds a little bit of peace, but I imagine the rest of the message really excited the shepherds, don't you? Listen closely... *"I bring you good news of great **joy** that will be for all*

*people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

Jesus finally arrived. Their Savior was here. Remember, they had waited and hoped for a savior with great anticipation for a very long time. What great and joyful news the angels shared with the shepherds! Jesus brought so much joy to the weary world and fulfilled the prophecy of the Old Testament.

Do you know what joy means? Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. What are a few things that bring you joy? Maybe it's when your family spends time together sharing a pizza and watching a movie. Maybe it's going on a trip and seeing a new area of our world. Maybe it's getting ice cream after dinner, or even eating ice cream for dinner! All of these things make us happy and joyful. But did you know that Jesus gives us **joy** even during unhappy times and times of trouble?? In John 16:33, Jesus tells us, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* We know that the birth of Jesus was just the beginning of our salvation. Because Jesus was born and because years later he died on the cross for our sins, we have joy in our hearts. We have joy even during hard times, knowing we are loved by Him *and* that we get to spend eternity in heaven with Him!

2020 has been a really wonky year, hasn't it? Your life doesn't look like it did before spring break, does it? Maybe you are doing school virtually from home and you really miss seeing your friends. Maybe you are in person at school, but you have to wear a mask all day. Maybe you feel disappointed because you don't get to participate in extracurricular activities that you normally do. Maybe you feel really sad that you don't get to see the special people in your life, like grandparents because of this virus. It is easy to become fearful or afraid during the uncertainty of this time. But remember the angel's

message to the shepherd..."Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great **joy** for all the people."

Take time to **mediate on God's word while coloring the Joy coloring sheet**, and may this time of reflection bring you great joy!



## SCRIPTURE READINGS OF JOY:

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great **joy** for all the people.

Luke 2:10

May the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Though you have not seen {Christ}, you love him; and even though re filled you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious **joy**, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1: 8-9

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with **joy**.

Psalms 126:3

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

What thoughts do you think might have been going through the shepherds minds, as the angels told them that they brought good news that will cause great **joy** for all the people?

Do you think this message from the angels remains true for you today?

Discuss with your family something that brings you great joy.

### **Songs of Joy:**

Joy to the World  
By: Pentatonix

I've Got the Joy  
By: Go Fish

Christmas Day  
By: Chris Tomlin and We the Kingdom

### **Joy Ornament:**

**Supplies:** Glue  
Possibly scissors

#### **Instructions:**

Collect the stickers letters to spell JOY  
Stick the stickers onto the RED ribbon  
Glue the JOY ribbon to the star  
Glue the Holly decal to the star  
Let the glue dry  
Flip the star over  
Make a U shape out of the RED AND GREEN ribbon  
Glue to the back of the star, to hang your ornament.

