

Light of the World Advent Study

Week 3: JOY– The Song of Creation

My Spirit rejoices in GOD my SAVIOR. - Luke 1:47

Candle Color: Pink

Candle Lighting Prayer:

GOD of JOY, we light this candle with grateful hearts.

Fill our home with laughter and song and remind us that YOUR JOY shines brighter than any darkness.

May YOUR SPIRIT sing through us this week. AMEN.

Family Devotional Thought:

This is the week of GAUDETE- meaning rejoice.

As ADVENT continues, we light the 3rd candle – the Candle of JOY. JOY is more than happiness; it's a deep gladness rooted in knowing that GOD is with us.

When Mary visited Elizabeth, even the baby John leapt for JOY. The shepherds rejoiced at the angels' song. JOY flows naturally when we open our hearts to praise.

Weekly Overview:

This week we will explore JOY through scripture, song, and creation. Each day we will focus on how JOY flows naturally when we open our hearts to praise.

Scripture & Bible Study:

Bible Focus:

Mary's Song and the Angel's announcement.

Theme Thought:

True JOY bursts forth when we recognize GOD's presence among us.

Integrated Learning:

- LA
- Math
- History
- Science/Nature
- Hymn Study: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel translated by John Mason Neale (1851)
- Art Study: The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898)
- Preschool Activities
- Family Activities

Family Reflection

Gather around your candles and share about your week.

Closing Prayer

Scripture & Bible Study:

Bible Focus:

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Theme Thought:

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Daily Readings:

We use the KJV Bible, but feel free to use a Bible of your choosing.

Day 1: Luke 1:39-45 – Mary visits Elizabeth

- Discuss the JOY of shared FAITH.

Day 2: Luke 1:46-56 – Mary's Song

- Write and illustrate your own JOY song or poem to GOD.

Day 3: Luke 2:8-14 – The angels bring good news

- Journal: Imagine being a shepherd and hearing that message.

Day 4: Psalm 98 – All creation sings praises

- Go outdoors and listen for nature's songs.

Day 5: John 15:11 – My JOY may be in you.

- Journal: What does it mean to have CHRIST's JOY inside of you?

Integrated Learning:

Language Arts

- Copy work: Verses from the hymn or a Bible verse.
- Look up the definition of JOY.
- Writing prompts:
 - o Write and illustrate a song or poem of JOY.
 - o Make a gratitude list.
 - o Describe a time when you felt JOY that came from GOD.

Math

- Research rhythms and patterns in nature and/or music
 - o Try to find examples of these around you.
- Make a graph for 'Acts of Kindness' in your home.
- Keep up with your ADVENT countdown.
- Create a simple budget.

History

The Shepherds and the Angels song

- Explore more about a shepherd's life and what their day may have looked like?
 - o Discuss how these were ordinary people chosen for heavenly news.
 - o Discuss how JOY often comes to the humble and faithful first.

Science/Nature

God designed creation to sing

- Go on a listening walk -Observe bird songs in nature
 - o How would you describe their songs?
- Research how plants and animals respond to music
 - o Make a simple instrument from natural materials. Ex: rainstick, drum, or windchime

Hymn Study: Joy to the World by Isaac Watts (1719)

- Research the history of this song.

This hymn was written as a reflection on Psalm 98 – a celebration of creation rejoicing because the LORD reigns.

Every tree, hill, and heart join in a symphony of praise.

- *How can you join creation's song of JOY this week?*

Art Study: The Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard Van Honthorst (1622)

The scene glows with candlelight as shepherds gaze in awe at the newborn CHRIST.

Reflection:

- What details show JOY in this picture?
- How does light express the wonder of the moment?
- What do the faces of the shepherds tell us about JOY?

Hands On:

- Try making a chiaroscuro (light/shadow) drawing using a pencil or charcoal to highlight light breaking through darkness.

Preschool Activities:

- Trace the word JOY in large letters and let them color or decorate it.
- Make jingle bells shakers and have a JOYFUL dance time
- *Fingerpaint a night sky with stars and angels.*
- *Make paper angels of stars.*
- *Learn the hymn with hand bells.*

Family Activities:

- Make a JOY Jar and write one thing each night that brought you JOY during the day. Read them at the end of the week.
- Go caroling or sing together as a family.
- Make homemade ornaments with verses of JOY.
 - o Decorate your tree with them or give them as gifts.
- *Keep planning a Shepherd's Dinner for your family.*

Family Reflection

At the end of the week gather around your three lit candles, HOPE, PEACE, and JOY, and share:

- From your JOY jar: What brought us JOY this week?
- How can we share that JOY with others?

Closing Prayer

LORD of JOY, thank YOU for songs that lift our hearts and for the beauty of creation's praise.

Help us to rejoice always, even in quiet or difficult days. May YOUR JOY be our strength and our song. AMEN.

NOTES: