



WEEK THREE – DECEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Born to Be Our Friend • Luke 1:26–56*

Bottom Line: *You can have joy because God is with you.*

Memory Verse: *“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”*
Philippians 4:4

Life App: *Joy—Finding a way to be happy, even when things don’t go your way*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We continue the story of Christmas in Luke 1:26–56. The Messiah had been promised for generations, but no one would have guessed that God would use a young woman to bring that promise to fulfillment— including that young woman herself. Mary was awestruck when the angel came to announce that she was about to have a child who would be the Savior of the world. She finds joy, trusting that God is up to something bigger than she could have possibly imagined.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Index cards; markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask kids to list people they like to do things with. They should keep it generic, like: mom, grandpa, friend, brother, cousin, etc.
- Write down their responses on index cards (one per card)
- Lay the index cards on the floor so they're spread out.
- Read the name on each card so kids remember what they all say.
- Say the sentences below. After each one, instruct kids to move and put their foot next to the person they would choose.
 - Who would you want to be with you at the park?
 - Who would you want to be with you at the library?
 - Who would you want to be with you at your game?
 - Who would you want to be with you at an amusement park?
 - Who would you want to be with you when you read a book?
 - Who would you want to be with you when you scrape your knee?
- Continue along these same lines as long as you have time.

2. Looking Forward

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Play-Doh

What You Do:

- Give each kid a lump of Play-Doh.
- Tell kids to use the Play-Doh to make something they're looking forward to. It can be Christmas-related or something else.
- Encourage kids to share their thoughts with the group if they wish, but don't force them to do so.

What You Say:

“You are all looking forward to some pretty cool things! [Transition] In today’s story, somebody was looking forward to the coolest thing ever!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can have joy because God is with you. Our circumstances do not have to determine how joyful we feel. We may not be happy about what is happening, but joy goes beyond happiness as it is rooted in our trust that God will carry us through whatever we face.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Pop-Up Cards

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Pop-Up Card Template” and “Pop-Up People” Activity Pages; scissors; glue; markers; Bible

What You Do:

- *NOTE: You might wish to go ahead and cut out the cards and the dashed lines before kids arrive. Make this decision based upon your kids’ cutting abilities and the time you have allotted for this activity.*
- Give each kid a template and scissors.
- Tell kids to cut out the two rectangles along the outside lines. They should NOT cut along the line in the middle of the rectangles.
- Show kids how to fold the “inside” card (with the dashed lines) along the center line so the dashed lines are showing on the outside.
- Cut along the dashed lines. Make sure to only cut as far as the dashes go. (We don’t recommend letting kids do this part.)
- Instruct kids to unfold the inside, fold it the other way to 90 degrees, and pop out the cut part. (See Activity Page sketches.)
- Tell kids to fold the outside card along the center line and then fold it back the other way so the line is on the inside of the card.
- Help kids glue the inside of the card onto the outside of the card.
- Give each kid a person cutout, and allow kids to color their person.
- As they work, ask them if they remember what their person did in today’s Bible story.

- Show kids how to glue the person to the pop-out part of the card. (See Activity Page sketches.)
- Read Luke 1:26–45 aloud.
- As you read, kids should open their pop-out card when their person’s name is mentioned and/or when their person is speaking. You may need to prompt them.

What You Say:

*“Those pop-out cards are pretty neat, aren’t they? What I want you do to is take your card home with you and use it to help you retell today’s story to someone in your family or to a friend who maybe doesn’t know Jesus yet. What’s so cool about today’s story is that it tells us that Jesus is God’s Son. That means God actually sent His Son to earth so He could be with people. He’s not still here with us today, but He’s alive in heaven, and we can have Him with us in our hearts when we trust in Him. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because God is with you.**”*

2. Afraid Charades

[Memory Verse Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Say the Bottom Line together several times: ***[Bottom Line] You can have joy because God is with you.***
- Challenge kids to work together to come up with some simple motions for the Bottom Line.
- Ask kids to think of something they’re scared of OR something other kids their age might be scared of.
- One at a time, allow kids to do charades to share their idea with everyone. You may need to whisper some instructions in their ear if they’re having trouble coming up with something.
- After each one, you will say: “Remember, even when _____, God is with you.”
- Then the kids say the Bottom Line together with motions they come up with.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you, and so can I! [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about something that scares you, but you know you can face that fear because God is with you. Make sure to keep your example appropriate and relatable for young kids.) Everybody is afraid of something, whether it’s spiders, storms, the dark, someone close to you dying, or your parents splitting up. But through all of those things, God is with us. And that can give us such peace and JOY!”

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle, and encourage them to be calm and quiet.
- Move around the outside of the circle, and pray the prayer below for each kid.
 - If appropriate, gently lay a hand on each kid's head or shoulder while praying for him or her.

What You Say:

“God, help [kid’s name] remember that he/she can have joy because you are with him/her. (Repeat for each kid.) Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about their pop-up cards and what part that person played in today’s Bible story.