



DECEMBER THEME

**PUT A BOW  
ON IT**

**BIBLE STORY**

Luke 2:8-20

Sheepchat (Shepherds and Angels)  
Spark Story Bible: Jesus is Born (p. 212)

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can choose joy because God's story  
is for everyone

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it  
again: Rejoice!"  
Philippians 4:4, NIV

**LIFE APP**

Joy—Finding a way to be content  
even when things don't go your way

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **JOY** and God's character, as shown through God's big story

**This WEEK:** We finish up the month in **Luke 2:8-20**. God wanted to announce to the world that God's son Jesus was born and God chose to do that through some shepherds. Now, shepherds were not that important, they weren't famous, and they weren't royalty. It was as if God was saying, "You can have joy because the gift of Jesus is for everyone—regardless of who you are."

**Bottom Line:** I can choose joy because God's story is for everyone. The birth of Jesus was good news for every person of every social class and nationality, regardless of their mess, regardless of their circumstances, regardless of their status. We want all kids to know that Jesus came for them!

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your kids would develop a heart that would be about everyone knowing Jesus! Ask God to stir their hearts to not keep what they hear this weekend to themselves and for every kid to recognize that they were created to tell this news to the world!

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids if they've ever heard really exciting news and wanted to tell everyone. Let them share their stories.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you had some amazing news and couldn't keep it to yourself!)**

•• **FIND THE SHEEP**

**What You Need:** "Sheep" coloring page, crayons, cotton balls, glue

**What You Do:**

- Hand out sheep coloring pages and cotton balls.
- Help kids glue about 8 cotton balls on the sheep's head.
- Hand out crayons and let kids decorate the rest of their picture.

**What You Say:** "Hey! These coloring pages look just like white fluffy sheep. You know what? I think we're are going to be learning about some sheep and their shepherds



today! [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we'll find/we found out why there are sheep in our story!"

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### ●● **BEST NEWS EVER** (application activity/review the Bible story)

**What You Need:** "Best News Ever" activity pages, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Hand out the "Best News Ever" activity pages and ask if anyone knows what it looks like. (A newspaper!)
- Ask them a few questions like: Who reads a newspaper? Who writes the newspaper? Why do we have them? What kinds of things do newspapers talk about?
- Let kids begin coloring the picture. Point out the word "author" and guide kids to notice that it's blank. Tell them they can write their name or draw a small picture of themselves in the blank.
- Help them fill in the blanks on the page. (joy, God, Jesus)
- Ask each kid who they are going to give their "Best News Ever" paper to.

**What You Say:** "Wow! Your pictures look like real newspapers! And the best part of them is you get to give them to someone else! Just like we aren't going to keep our papers to ourselves, we don't want to keep the best news ever to ourselves because it's AWESOME! That makes me excited. I know that **[Bottom Line] I can choose joy because God's story is for everyone.**"

### ●● **SHOUT IT OUT** (application activity)

**What You Need:** Copy paper, tape, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Hand out copy paper and crayons to each kid.
- Encourage them (and/or help them) write JOY! on their paper in big letters.
- Give kids time to continue decorating the paper however they want.
- When they seem to be finishing up, help kids roll their papers into a cone shape so that their decorations are on the outside and secure them with tape, making "megaphones."

**What You Say:** "We have been talking all month about how we have joy because of Jesus! I'm excited because Jesus isn't just for me and you. **[Bottom Line] I can choose joy because God's story is for everyone.** Let's use our megaphones to shout out that Jesus is for everyone. One, two, three! JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE!"

### ●● **MEGAPHONE MEMORY VERSE** (memory verse activity)

**What You Need:** Megaphones from "Shout It Out" activity

**What You Do:**

- Use your megaphones to shout out the memory verse together.
- Practice saying the verse until kids have it memorized.



- Challenge kids to shout it out from memory.

**What You Say:** “Our memory verse this month tells us that we can have joy because we belong to Jesus. When you tell your friends about the most amazing news and gift that’s ever been given, remind them that they belong to Jesus, too. Tell them you and **[Bottom Line] I can choose joy because God’s story is for everyone.**”

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## PRAY AND SEND

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids if anyone is planning to give someone a present this Christmas.
- Let them quickly share what presents they’re excited about giving away. Why are they excited about them?
- Ask if anyone knows why we give gifts on Christmas. *(Because God gave us the best gift ever when God gave us Jesus; so we continue the giving spirit by giving presents to others to celebrate.)*

**What You Say:** “It sounds like we are going to be giving some awesome presents to people we love this year! Let’s pray that we also remember to share the best gift ever with them: Jesus! Let’s pray. Dear heavenly Father, I’m so glad that **[Bottom Line] I can choose joy because God’s story is for everyone.** I don’t want to just give people gifts from a store; I want them to know that your story is for them too and that it’s the best gift they could ever open. In Jesus’ name. Amen!”

**[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.**

Let them know we talked about how we can be joyful because God’s story is for everyone...and it’s our joy to share the story of God’s love with everyone!