

WEEK 2 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to bring joy to the world.

THE BIBLE

The Birth of Jesus Foretold:
Luke 1:26-55

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Songs of Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, read this!
 - "Oh What a Special Night" (Animated Praise)
 - "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" (Go Fish)
 - "Away in a Manger" (Yancy)
 - "Jesus, Savior of the World" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Finding Joy

- Joy is all around us, but sometimes it's hard to spot. Let's see if you can find some letters around the room that might make up the word "joy."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the letters spelling JOY taped all around the room in different sizes and colors. Have kids go around the room and find one of each letter. Then play or sing this familiar kid's song about joy for a call-and-response. Repeat several times, doing it differently each time (e.g., in a loud voice, in a whisper, in a fast way, or in a slow way).
- Great job finding and spelling joy!
- Sometimes, we can get joyful by things around us. Like a Christmas gift, cute pets, or maybe something good we do. But did you know that true joy that comes from God is deep down in our hearts?

- Now, when I say, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,"
- You ask, "**Where?**"
- I'll say, "Down in my heart!"
- Then, we'll switch!
 - When you say, "**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,**"
 - I'll ask, "Where?"
 - You'll say, "**Down in my heart!**"

ACTIVITY | Bursting with Flavor

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids try different fruit (e.g., apple slices, tangerines, grapes, cantaloupe etc.) and have them say which ones seemed to burst more with flavor.
- **Which of these foods gave more of a burst when you tasted them?**
- When these foods burst, it's like a yummy explosion of flavor!
- In today's story, we'll discover what happens when our hearts feel like they're bursting with joy!

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | The Birth of Jesus Foretold

- Last week, I got a letter from my friend Linda who was traveling in Singapore. This week, she is in Kenya, which is a country on the continent of Africa! **Do you know where Kenya is in the world?** [Show kids its location on the globe by placing a Christmas sticker there.]
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before story time, print and place this "letter" inside an envelope and seal it shut. Place it next to a globe on top of a desk or table.
- Okay, let me read to you what my friend wrote.
 - Dear [Your Name], *Jambo!* That's how you say "hello" in Swahili, which is one of the main languages spoken here in Kenya. But did you know they speak over sixty languages here? Kenya is an amazing place. Just the other day, I was able to see cheetahs, elephants, and flamingoes on a safari tour!
 - On the airplane ride from Asia to Africa — it was a very long flight — I was reading the Bible again and I got to learning more about the story of Jesus and I couldn't wait to share it with you.
 - So last time, remember how the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a baby?
- **Let's all pretend to be the angel Gabriel and fly around the room together.**
 - Well, The story continues! The same angel, Gabriel, suddenly appeared to a young woman named Mary. Just like Zechariah was when Gabriel came to him, Mary was very scared.
- **Can you imagine how scared Mary was? Can you show me your scared face!**
 - But the angel told her not to be afraid. God was pleased with Mary so much that she was going to have a baby!
 - Mary didn't understand. She wasn't married yet. How could she have a baby?

- **Mary was very confused. Let's all scratch our heads and pretend to think.**
 - Gabriel told her that she wouldn't be the mother of any baby. This baby would be the Son of God. This sounded unreal, but Mary trusted God and believed the good news!
 - Then, Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth – remember Elizabeth? She already had baby John in her belly. And just when Mary told her what the angel had said . . . Elizabeth's baby jumped for joy!
- **Imagine that. A baby jumping up and down inside his mother's belly! Can you all jump up and down with me?**
 - Mary was also filled with joy that she burst into a song about God. Mary sang about how good God is and how happy she was that God chose her!
 - Mary, Elizabeth, and baby John were so filled with joy! And I am filled with joy too visiting and hearing stories here in Africa. I can't wait to write to you again soon! Your friend, Linda.
- Wow, what a story! I'm so happy my friend is sharing what she's been reading about from the Bible even as she's traveling around the world!

BIG IDEA | Jesus came to bring joy to the world!

- It's time for the Big Idea! And since our letter came from Africa this week, let's say that in Swahili, a language widely spoken in parts of Africa.
- Are you ready? *"Ni wakati wa Wazo Kubwa!"*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find a native speaker to record this on a simple video, or play this sound clip on Google Translate for kids to copy. Afterward, pass out the Big Idea passport printable to have them trace the Big Idea. Then give everyone a sticker or stamp for box #2. Collect the passports at the end of large group time and save for next week.*
- Great job saying, "It's time for the Big Idea" in Swahili!
- Drumroll, please! *[Have kids use drums from last week or stomp their feet rapidly.]*
- Today' Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came to bring joy to the world!**

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

ACTIVITY | Playful Puppets

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Glue googly eyes to a 1" pom pom. Then glue the pom pom to the end of a pipe cleaner. Create at least one for each kids in assorted colors so that kids can wrap the pipe cleaner around their finger and play with them. Check out this link for more detailed instructions.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *To prevent choking hazards and get poked by the pipe cleaner, consider making puppets out of felt or paper bags for toddlers.*
- **Who are some of the people we learned about last time and today?**
- In last week's story, we met the angel, Gabriel, Elizabeth, and baby John. This week, we met Elizabeth's cousin, Mary, who was received good news from the angel Gabriel.
- Let's create a few of the characters then wrap them around our fingers to help us remember our Bible story!

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this song again (or a different one featuring kids from different parts of the world) before praying together.*
- Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to bring joy to the world! Because of Jesus, we don't need to be afraid. Help us to always be filled with joy and to share joy with others. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Doughy Delights

- Christmas chin chin and puff puff are delicious snacks during the Christmas season in some parts of Africa.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show image of the snacks (Chin Chin or Puff Puff). If you're feeling up to the task, create your own puff puff and chin chin for kids to try using a recipe ([like this](#) one). Additionally, go ahead and share treats from a snack box featuring a different country this week, if you'd like!*
- This won't be exactly like the original, but we're going to have something that's a little bit similar that you probably tried before . . . Donut holes! [Or if you made your own, say "This won't be exactly like the original, but we tried making it so you might get an idea of what this traditional treat tastes like."]
- **Anyone jumping for joy for more?**

ACTIVITY | Clothespin Angel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pre-cut 1" circles out of different colored construction paper for the angel's face. Have kids draw a face on a circle then help them attach it to a flat side of the clip end of the clothespin using glue dots or tacky glue. Help kids cinch up a doily in the middle to create the wings, and clip it with the pin. Glue a pipe cleaner halo to the back of the pin. Your finished product should look something [like this!](#)*
- **Who told Mary she was going to have a baby?** That's right, the angel.
- **What did Mary do when she heard this news?** She sang a song to praise God.
- **What happened with Elizabeth's baby when Mary greeted her?** The baby jumped!

ACTIVITY | Dance Around the World

- Dancing is a popular way of showing joy, all over the world! And we have a reason to dance, since **Jesus came to bring joy to the world!**
- Let's see what dancing looks like in different parts of the world!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this video and encourage kids to join in the fun by either following the moves shown or expressing joy in their own way!*

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Say this month's memory verse a few times with the kids. Then set it to the tune of a song the kids know and have them sing along with an instrumental track you've prepared or while accompanied by a musician in your ministry.*

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse. To reinforce the around the world theme, consider passing out passport visa or world flags stickers when they complete their coloring page.*

ACTIVITY | Globe Ornaments

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a clear, plastic ornament. Pour in about one teaspoon of green paint and have kids slowly swirl the paint around the inside of the ornament. You could use a mini funnel to add the paint. Repeat with the white paint, then the blue paint. Let it sit without the lid to dry, then add the lid and string for them when it's time for them to go home.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Lay out a coffee filter on a plate and let toddlers color it with blue and green marker. Spray it a few times with water and watch the colors swirl together to make their own world art!*

ACTIVITY | Bubbly Joy!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare trays of colored bubble mixture. Simply pour a little bubble mixture into each tray – one for each color – and then add a little food coloring to each tray and stir gently. Have kids then blow bubbles all over your paper.*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.