

July Week 1
Garden
Start the Party

July 7

CRAFT WEEK 1

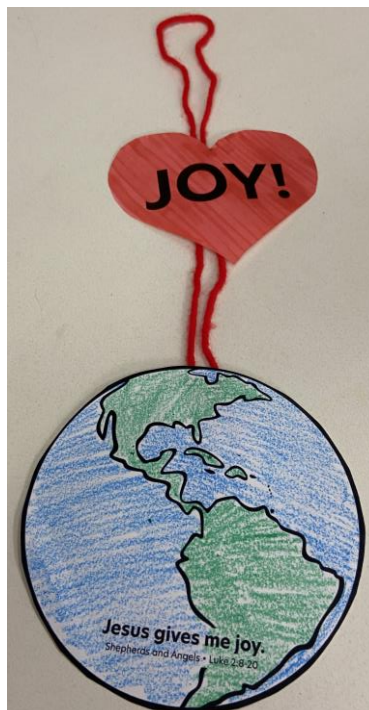
Start the Party

SUPPLIES:

World Cutouts, Joy Heart Cutouts, Yarn (cut to 18 in), Crayons, Scotch Tape

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child a world cutout. Have them color the world blue and green.**
 - *"Today we learned that the angels and shepherds shared the good news about Jesus. We learned that Jesus came to be everyone's friend forever and that it is good news of great joy for ALL people. That means it's good news for everyone in the whole world! Let's color this world picture."*
- ⇒ **Give each child a Joy heart. Use tape to secure a loop of yarn to the world and a second piece of tape to secure the heart to the yarn several inches above the world.**
 - *"See this heart? It says JOY! Jesus came to give joy to everyone in the whole world! We're going to attach the joy heart and the world to some yarn and you can take this home and hang it up in your house!"*
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *"Today in our Bible Story, the angel told the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born and He came to be everyone's friend forever! That means you, and you, and you, and me! Jesus came to give the whole world joy. That is something to celebrate!"*
 - ***Who gives you joy?***
Jesus gives me joy!"



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ACTIVITY #1

Good News of Great Joy

SUPPLIES: Joy Cards, Magnifying Glasses, Blue Wall Tape

SET-UP: Tape joy cards up around the room

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children and prepare them for a search and find game.**

- *"Friends, come sit on the floor with me. Today we heard that the angel told the shepherds the good news about that Jesus was born and they went looking for him. When they found him, they had so much joy they had to share it with everyone! We're going to play a game where we can go looking for joy!"*

⇒ **Give each child a magnifying glass and invite them to walk around the room looking for the joy signs.**

- *"All around the room, there are signs that say JOY, just like this one. See? (Spell it out.) J-O-Y, Joy! We are going to take our magnifying glasses and walk around looking for joy. When you find one, shout out **Jesus gives me joy!**"*
- *"Let's find the first one together, follow me. (Walk to a JOY card holding the magnifying glass over your eye.) There's one! Now everybody tell me, **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**"*
- *"Now we're all going to split up and go looking for more joy. Remember, when you find one, shout out **Jesus gives me joy!**"*

⇒ **Review the Bible story and bring it back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"In our true Bible Story today, the angels told the shepherds the good news that God's Son, Jesus was born and they went looking for him. They had so much joy, they ran to tell everyone in town about Jesus so those people could have joy too! Jesus came to give the world joy."*
- **Who gives me joy?**
- **Jesus gives me joy!"**

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ACTIVITY #2

Joyful News

SUPPLIES: None

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children line up on one side of your room facing you on the other side. Explain the rules.**
 - *“Friends, we are going to play a game today about how we can go and tell joyful news! Come over to this side of the room and line up against the wall, facing me.*
 - *Have you ever played the game Red Light, Green Light? It’s a fun game, but I want to change it up a bit! When I say ‘Good News!’ I want you to start walking to me. When I say ‘Stop,’ I want you to freeze right where you are. And I’ll ask our big question: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!***
 - *Are you ready to play?”*
- ⇒ **Play the game and repeat the bottom line each time they’re stopped.**
 - *“Good News! (Pause.) Now Stop! (Pause.) Now tell me:*
 - ***Who gives you joy?***
 - ***Jesus gives me joy!***
 - *Good News! (Pause.)*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then bring it back to the bottom line.**
 - *“Great job, friends! Jesus gives you joy and that is Good News that we can share with everyone!*
 - ***Who gives you joy?***
 - ***Jesus gives me joy!***

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READ, ASK, PRACTICE, & PRAY
JULY WEEK 1

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ A STORY

- *Beginner's Bible "Shepherds Visit" p 277*

ASK A QUESTION

Who gives me joy?

Jesus gives me joy!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making me.

Thank you for loving me.

Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.

Amen.