

**July Week 1**  
**Backyard**  
**Start the Party**

*July 7*

# CRAFT WEEK 1

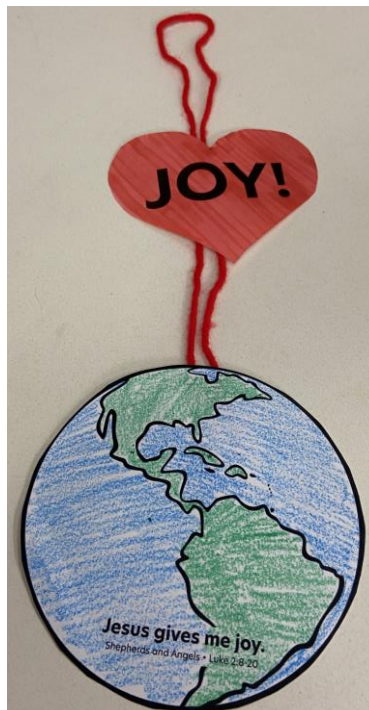
*Start the Party*

**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 (12), 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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# **ACTIVITY #3**

## *Memory Verse Practice*

**SUPPLIES:**      Reward Stickers

### **What You DO and SAY:**

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.**
  - *“Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!”*
  
- ⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**
  - *“First, let’s say it once together. ‘I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’ Luke 2:10*
    - *Now let’s try it...*
      - *Super loud*
      - *Super quiet*
      - *Really fast*
      - *Really Slow*
      - *Jumping up and down*
      - *Running in Place*
      - *All the boys*
      - *All the girls*
      - *Kids only*
      - *Teachers only*
  
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.**
  
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
  - *“Nice work, my friends!*
  - *Who gives you joy?*
  - *Jesus gives me joy!”*

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## READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY JUNE WEEK 1

### PASS OUT MOON SAND

#### READ

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

#### REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
  - ***Who gives you Joy?***
  - ***Jesus gives me joy!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
  - ***"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10***

### CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "Today we learned about the shepherds who told the good news about Jesus, and we can tell the good news about Jesus, too! Let's make a list of people we can tell the good news about Jesus. When I say your name, **tell me one person you can tell about Jesus**, and I will write it down.
  - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Wow! Look at all these people! Let's use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
  - *"Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to give every person in the world joy. That is such good news! Help us tell [read the list the children made] that Jesus loves them, and He wants to be their friend forever. We love you, God. In Jesus' name, amen."*