

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

Read: Luke 2:10

DAY
1



Where is Jesus?

Pretend you are a shepherd that just heard about the birth of Jesus! Set out to look high and low for Him!

Play a game of Hide and Seek with some family or friends. Using a baby doll or stuffed animal, take turns hiding the toy. The ones not hiding the toy are the seekers; switch once you have found the toy.

LOOK for Jesus in the world around you.

DAY
2



The Manger

Look up photos of what a manger would have looked like when Jesus was born. Using craft supplies and toys that you have on hand, recreate a manger scene. Ask your adult to help you retell the story from Luke 2:8-20 about Jesus' birth!

THANK God for sending Jesus.

DAY
3



Great Joy!

Luke 2:10 talks about the joy that Jesus would bring to this world. Look up this week's verse and create motions or a song to go along with the verse. Think about the joy that those around during Jesus' birth must have felt!

KNOW that Jesus' birth brought joy to so many.

DAY
4

Joy & Love

Jesus' birth was a joy to the world. God sending Jesus to earth was a show of great love. What are some ways you have seen God's love in your life? Thank God by using the prayer below or by saying your own.

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 "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to this earth. You loved all of us so much that You put Him here so that we can see Your love. Thank You for showing me love through the people in my life who love me, the ways You give me what I need, and the things that You do for me. You take such good care of me. Thank You, God."  
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ASK God to continue to show you all the ways you are loved.

Jesus brings
joy to the world.





Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

DAY 1

Read Luke 2:10–11

This summer, we're talking about JOY—choosing to celebrate what God is doing! There are so many things we can thank God for and celebrate with JOY, including the birth of Jesus, God's one and only Son.

Have you ever heard of Christmas in July? While it might sound crazy, we don't have to wait until December because Jesus' birth is something to celebrate every day of the year!

On the night Jesus was born, an angel appeared to an ordinary group of shepherds to announce His birth! They told the shepherds this good news would bring GREAT joy for all people. Because Jesus brings joy to the world.

Joy to the World Mural

Grab a paper plate and use a marker to divide it into four sections. In one section, draw the night sky with a bright light and a speech bubble that reads "Good news of great joy!" Save the plate to add to each day this week.

DAY 2

Read Luke 2:15

It's fun to think about how we might have reacted if we'd been in that field, minding our own business.

Shepherd 1: "Let's go to Bethlehem!"

Shepherd 2: "Hold on, my ears are still ringing from all the singing!"

Shepherd 3: "Can we stop for snacks? All the excitement made me hungry!"

Shepherd 1: "Guys, come ON! It's Jesus, the Messiah. This is literally a once in a lifetime opportunity. Let's go!"

They probably didn't sound exactly like that. But it IS important to remember that these were regular, everyday people just like you and me because God sent Jesus for everyone. Jesus came to bring joy to the WHOLE world.

Joy to the World Mural, Part 2

In the next section of your plate, draw a shepherd and a sheep or two with a pencil. Add a speech bubble that reads, "Let's go!" over their heads and fill in with markers or crayons to add color.

DAY 3

Read Luke 2:16–17

Have you ever heard some really good news and you just couldn't wait to share it? Maybe you found out that your family is going on vacation. Or that the math test that was supposed to be on Friday got moved to Monday. Or that your grandma is feeling better. When we have good news, we want to share it!

That's how the shepherds felt when they saw Jesus. They couldn't wait to tell everyone. Immediately after seeing baby Jesus with their own eyes, the shepherds told everyone what they'd seen and heard. They wanted everyone to know that Jesus brings joy to the world.

Joy to the World Mural, Part 3

On the third section of your plate, draw baby Jesus in the manger, which is a feeding trough for animals. Then add a speech bubble that reads, "Jesus is here!"

DAY 4

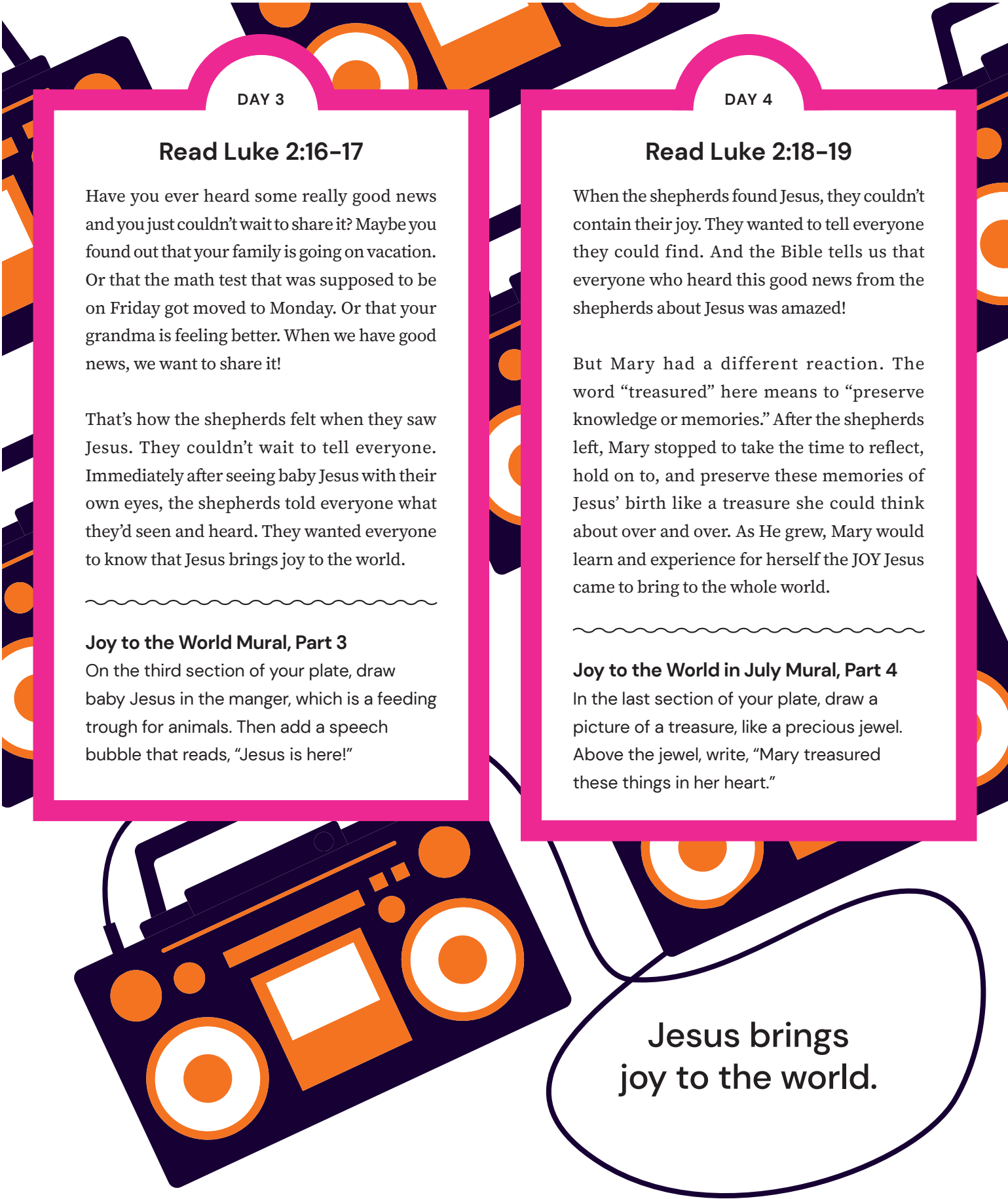
Read Luke 2:18–19

When the shepherds found Jesus, they couldn't contain their joy. They wanted to tell everyone they could find. And the Bible tells us that everyone who heard this good news from the shepherds about Jesus was amazed!

But Mary had a different reaction. The word "treasured" here means to "preserve knowledge or memories." After the shepherds left, Mary stopped to take the time to reflect, hold on to, and preserve these memories of Jesus' birth like a treasure she could think about over and over. As He grew, Mary would learn and experience for herself the JOY Jesus came to bring to the whole world.

Joy to the World in July Mural, Part 4

In the last section of your plate, draw a picture of a treasure, like a precious jewel. Above the jewel, write, "Mary treasured these things in her heart."



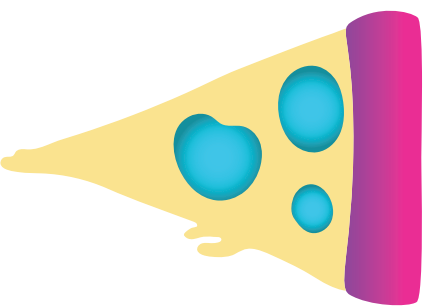
Jesus brings
joy to the world.

Day 2

Read Luke 2:8-20

Grab a sheet of paper and some colored pencils, pens, or whatever you'd like to draw with. As you read through Luke 2:8-20, draw emojis to represent the following things: shepherds, night, sheep, angel, good news, Savior, baby, angels, singing, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, baby, shepherds, angel, amazed, shepherds, Mary, treasure, heart, shepherds, praises to God.

After drawing the emojis in that order, recite the story of Jesus' birth aloud, using the emojis as your cue cards, or hints, to keep you on track! Then save the sheet of paper for later this week.

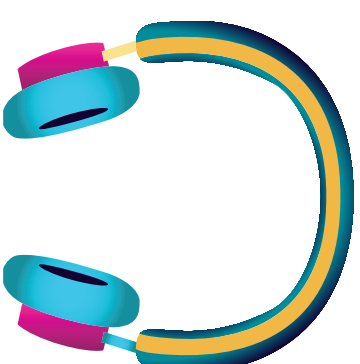


Day 4

Find the sheet of paper you used earlier in the week to write out the story of Jesus' birth, emoji-style.

Then share the story with at least one person—but the more the merrier! (Get it? Because “Merry Christmas.”) Use the emojis as your cue cards, or hints, to keep you on track!

Afterward, take turns sharing with each other one way that **Jesus brings joy to the world.**



Day 5

Who do you know who could use some joy?

Grab your Bible and read Luke 2:17-18.

What did the shepherds do right after they saw Jesus?

And how did everyone respond to the news from the shepherd?

That's right—they were amazed at what God was doing. And after you see what God is doing, you can't help but have joy, right? Because joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

Who in your life could use some joy right now? Think of family members, friends, neighbors, teammates. . . Especially think of people who might be alone or hurting. What is something you could do to share with them the joy that Jesus brings? Recruit a friend or ask a parent for help and make it happen!

Day 3

It's Christmas in July!

Well, not really, but we are talking about when Jesus was born, so it's feeling a little Christmas-y, isn't it?

Crank up some Christmas instrumental music (maybe more of the “Silent Night” variety and not so much “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”)—get a parent's help if you need it.

As you listen to the music, close your eyes and imagine it's that first Christmas, and you've just heard the amazing news that the Savior has been born. What would you feel? JOY, right?

Jesus brings joy to the world.

With your eyes still closed, take a couple of minutes to thank God for sending Jesus, and share all the ways that Jesus brings joy to the world—and to YOUR world.