



*Week 2*  
*Shepherds and Angels*  
*Luke 2:8-19*

## *Talk about it*

Christmas is an exciting time of year and a word you may hear a lot is "Joy!" What is joy? (invite your kids to share what they think joy is). We can have joy in our life when we love and follow God. Let's open the Bible and read about a group of people who felt joy after they got some very exciting news. We are going to open to the second part of the Bible, the New Testament and look at the book of Luke.

## *Read it*

Luke 2:8-19

## *Ask it*

Have you ever been super excited for something? (invite your kids to share a time when they were excited about something that was happening.) Have you ever been filled with so much joy that you couldn't keep the excitement to yourself? (Allow kids to share how they told people what they were excited for.)

We saw in this story from the Bible that the shepherds were amazed and full of joy when the angels told them that Jesus had been born! The shepherds did not keep the news of Jesus' birth to themselves. They were too excited! They were overflowing with joy as they told people that Jesus had been born.

Jesus' birth gives us joy too! How can we respond to this good news that Jesus was born? (Help your family know that we can pray and thank God for sending Jesus. We can worship Him for how amazing He is. We can also tell other people that Jesus came to earth, just like the shepherds did.) The shepherds were excited because they knew that the Savior they had been waiting for had arrived. By sending Jesus, God showed us that He loves us and wants a relationship with us. That is something to be joyful about!

## *Sing it* 🎵

"Joy to the World"

## *Do it*

- Place the JOY candle (pink) on your magnetic wreath.
- **Ball of Joy** Write down things that bring you joy. For smaller children, draw what they tell you. Hold the paper and say "Thank you God that I can know your joy through \_\_\_\_\_." Each family member can then either fold (smaller hands) or 'curl' the paper(s) and place it inside of the ornament (you can wrap it around a pencil to curl it). Write JOY with permanent marker on the outside of the ornament and hang it on your tree.



## *Pray it*

Take some time to pray as a family, and ask God that He would give you and opportunity to share the joy He has given you in this season.

**God, thank You for giving us joy by sending Your Son for us. Please help us to remember Your love for us no matter what is happening in our lives. Show us ways we can share Your joy in our lives this season. In Jesus' name, amen.**

\*Devotion taken from Lifeway Kids Advent Guide 2022



# *Extension Activities*

- Watch Charlie Brown Christmas. When all of the hustle and bustle of Christmas is getting Charlie Brown down, Linus steps in with the reason for the season. (Available only on Apple+ TV or purchase on DVD)
- Joy! God is the giver of joy! He wants us to delight in Him and His creation. Parents: think about what would bring your family joy? What could you announce as joyful to do with your family? Remember to connect to JOY. You could say: Remember how we're talking about joy? I have joyful news to share! Here are some ideas:
  - Make hot cocoa and drive around to look at Christmas lights
  - Make Christmas cookies together (licking beaters brings JOY!)
  - Read a special book as a family
  - Spread joy to your neighbors/friends/family by caroling at their house or even video calling.
- Sing songs about JOY when you're in the car together! Make a playlist with songs about JOY. Here are some to get you started:
  - "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy"
  - "Joy in the Morning" by Tauren Wells
  - "Joy" by for King + Country
  - "The Joy of the Lord" by Rend Collective
  - "You are My Joy" David Crowder\*Band