

A Family Christmas Devotional

Good News of Great Joy

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Play the Song: Christmas Joy/Joy to the World
(Music and Words by Mary Rice Hopkins & Linda Stevenson)
(A Very Mary Christmas album)



Introduce the Devotional with an Object Lesson:

Sit in a circle, and place a wrapped Christmas present with a baby doll inside wrapped in a blanket in the center. Also put some Almond Joy candies inside the box, and print on an index card the word JOY. Ask your children, "What do you think is in this wrapped Christmas present?" Let them guess. After they have had a turn guessing, allow a child to open the present. After the present is opened ask, "Why do you think this baby wrapped only in a blanket is in here?" Let them tell you why the baby is there. Say, "This card says, 'JOY.'" Give them an Almond Joy candy and talk about the real joy God gives us through the gift of His Son Jesus.

Lesson

Cut out figures of sheep, shepherds, angels, Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Use a flannel board and ask the children to place the figures on the board as you direct. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2:8-20.

1. Sheep and Shepherds. Read 2:8
2. Place one angel on the flannel board. Read 2:9-12.
3. Fill the sky with angels. Read 2:13-14
4. Remove the angels and leave the shepherds and their sheep. Read 2:15
5. Place Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus on the board. Read 2:16
6. Close with only the shepherds on the board. Read 2:17-20.

Discussion

Who? Who was in the field the night Jesus was born? (The shepherds keeping watch over their sheep.)

What? What happened that night? (An angel of the Lord appeared along with a host of angels praising God. They shared the good news that Jesus had come to bring joy to the world.)

When? When did the angels appear? (A dark, starry night as the shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks.)

Where? Where were they? (In the fields just outside of Bethlehem.)

Why? Why do you think the angels brought the news to lowly shepherds instead of the religious leaders? (God chooses to reveal Himself to those who have an open heart and are ready to receive Him.)

Sing About God's Gift of Joy: "Christmas Joy—Joy to the World.

Close in prayer



Thank you, Jesus, for coming into this world to bring us true joy. Thank you for the shepherds who heard and believed and made their way to His stable to see what You had told them about. May we be like these shepherds and share the good news of great joy with all we meet and tell them about the great joy that comes in receiving You.

In Your precious Name we pray, Amen