

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.