

# Week 3 for Families: Jesus Our Joy

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-56

Younger Kids: He's Here! [*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pgs. 176-182]

Babies and Toddlers: An Angel Visits Mary [*The Beginner's Bible*, pgs. 266-270]

## Family Reflection (Read Together)

Before Mary gave birth to Jesus, she went to visit her friend Elizabeth who was also about to have a baby. In their excitement of being together, the baby in Elizabeth leapt for joy! Joy comes when we know that someone loves us and wants to be with us. Elizabeth's baby knew by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus, the savior of the world, was with them! Jesus's mom, Mary began to sing a beautiful joy-filled song. She could sing this song loudly because she felt the presence of God.

When we are separated from God and others, we can experience great loneliness and fear. But God is in the business of bringing hope to the world. Jesus came to be with us so that we can be with God and have joy. Joy is not determined by the world around us, but rather by our relationship with God through Jesus. When we have a relationship with God, and know that He is always with us, we are filled with joy!

## Family Activity

Create a book of joy-filled relationships. Find some pictures, or print out pictures of family and other people that bring you joy. Put them on pages and bind them together to create a family 'Joy Book'. Discuss how joy is not based on circumstances but on being with those you love and being with God. God came to us through Jesus so that we could experience this joy!

## Discussion Questions

Younger Kids: JESUS IS OUR JOY

Older Kids:

1. Retell the story in your own words.
2. What does joy mean?
3. What brings you joy at Christmas time?
4. How is Jesus our ultimate joy? How does His presence in our life bring us joy?

## Musical Worship

Joy to the World by Bethel Kids

## Advent Ornament Craft

Use the instructions from the kids craft in the Advent Box to create the JOY ornament. You can find the ornament here or find one online that says or describes hope. Answer the following prompt:

*I have joy because...*

## Prayer

Invite the family to pray about joy this advent season. During the time of this pandemic and during the dark winter months, it may feel like things are sad. But God has brought us joy by sending us true hope and peace into the world, Jesus. Our joy comes from knowing that Jesus loves us and is with us! Pray that God will reveal His presence to you and others this advent season that you can find joy in Him.