**Advent Lessons**

Week 3- **JOY**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:10, 15-20

**Objective:** Children will learn about the great joy the angels proclaimed to the shepherds.

**Materials:** wrapped box from Lessons 1 and 2, nativity set, Bibles, LED candles, Advent Wreath, song sheets

**Preparation:**

1. Set up Advent Wreath with candles.
2. Find recorded Christmas Carols on the internet or ask someone to play carols on the piano.
3. Print the words to some familiar carols, especially, “Joy to the World.” Make a copy for each child.
4. Arrange for your group to sing Christmas carols at a nursing home or assisted living facility, or to homebound church members.
5. Send permission forms for caroling to parents/guardians ahead of time and ask children to bring with them.

**Procedure:**

1. Pass around the wrapped box used in Lessons 1 and 2. Invite children to continue guessing the contents of the box. Put the box on a shelf.
2. Invite children to demonstrate “jumping for joy.” **Ask:** *What else do you do when you are feeling really joyful?* **Say:** *Today we are learning the most joyful news ever!*
3. Display an empty stable from a manger scene. Place all the nativity pieces on a table, away from the stable. Invite children to take turns telling a part of the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-14 as they move the nativity pieces into position. For example, a child says, “Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem.” The child moves Joseph and Mary near the stable. Continue in this manner, stopping with the angel’s proclamation- “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) Give clues as needed.
4. Invite children to share what they think the shepherds did after they heard the angel. A volunteer could move the shepherds from the nativity set accordingly.
5. Guide children to find Luke 2:15-20 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verses. **Ask:** *What did the shepherds do after they heard the news from the angel? Why did they tell everyone what the angel had said?* (Allow time for responses from several children. **Say:** *The shepherds were so filled with* ***joy*** *that they wanted everyone else to know about Jesus’ birth!* ***Ask:*** *What does joy mean?* Read Luke 2:10.**Say:** *The angel said the great joy was Christ the Lord! Having Jesus with you is joy!* **Say:** *The third Advent candle represents joy.*
6. Turn on the first, second (purple), and third (pink) Advent candles. Turn off the lights. Pray, thanking God for His good news of great joy!

**Mission Project:** Christmas Caroling

**Say:** *We’re going to share the good news of great joy by singing Christmas carols!*

Practice singing Christmas carols. Carol at a nursing home, assisted living facility, or homebound church members.

