



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

December 6, 2020 – Mary's Joy (Luke 1:26-38, 46-56)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Joy

God sent the angel Gabriel to deliver a message to Mary – she would have a child, and she was to name the child Jesus.

Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph, but they were not married yet. The trouble Mary would face for being with child without marriage could mean terrible consequences for her. The news was surprising to Mary, to say the least. She questioned Gabriel, "How can this be?" Gabriel replied that nothing is impossible for God. Through her fear and confusion, Mary responded with humble acceptance. "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said," she replied.

Mary was a normal, young girl betrothed to be married, in the small town of Nazareth. There was nothing remarkable about her situation up to this point. We do not know why Mary was favored by God and chosen to bear the child Jesus. We know that after her initial shock, Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth who was also with child, and there she sang a beautiful song, filled with joy, praise, and acceptance. Mary had no idea how the situation would end. Would Joseph still marry her? Whatever the consequences, Mary was all in to carry out the plan God had for her.

We can all be called by God, no matter who we are. Just as Mary accepted God's plan with joy, it is up to us to accept whatever challenge God calls us to with faith and joy. In the end, Mary and Joseph celebrated the birth of Jesus with joy.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Mary's Joy, from Luke 1:26-38, 46-56 (Read from your Bible or see below for the Celebrate Wonder version)

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/yWHxCaiLqK4>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Joy – A feeling of gratitude and happiness.

WONDER Together:

1. What has God blessed you with?
2. Did something happen today that made you happy!
3. Is there something you are thankful for today?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 4 & 5). On page 5 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Mary was filled with joy and sang a song of celebration to glorify the Lord.

As you light your Advent wreath this week, read Luke 1:26-38, 46-56.

²⁶In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. ²⁷He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

²⁹Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. ³¹You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. ³³The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. ³⁷That's because what God says will always come true."

³⁸"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Mary's Song

⁴⁶Mary said,

"My soul gives glory to the Lord.

⁴⁷My spirit delights in God my Savior.

⁴⁸He has taken note of me

even though I am not considered important.

From now on all people will call me blessed.

⁴⁹The Mighty One has done great things for me.

His name is holy.

⁵⁰ He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him,
from parent to child down through the years.

⁵¹ He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.
He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.
But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

⁵³ He has filled with good things those who are hungry.
But he has sent away empty those who are rich.

⁵⁴ He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.
He has always remembered to be kind

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his children down through the years.
He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she returned home.

We, too, can sing songs of joy! Sing your favorite carols or songs of joy as you watch the candle flame dance.

As you share family meals this week, sing songs of praise as a prayer of thanks for food and family.

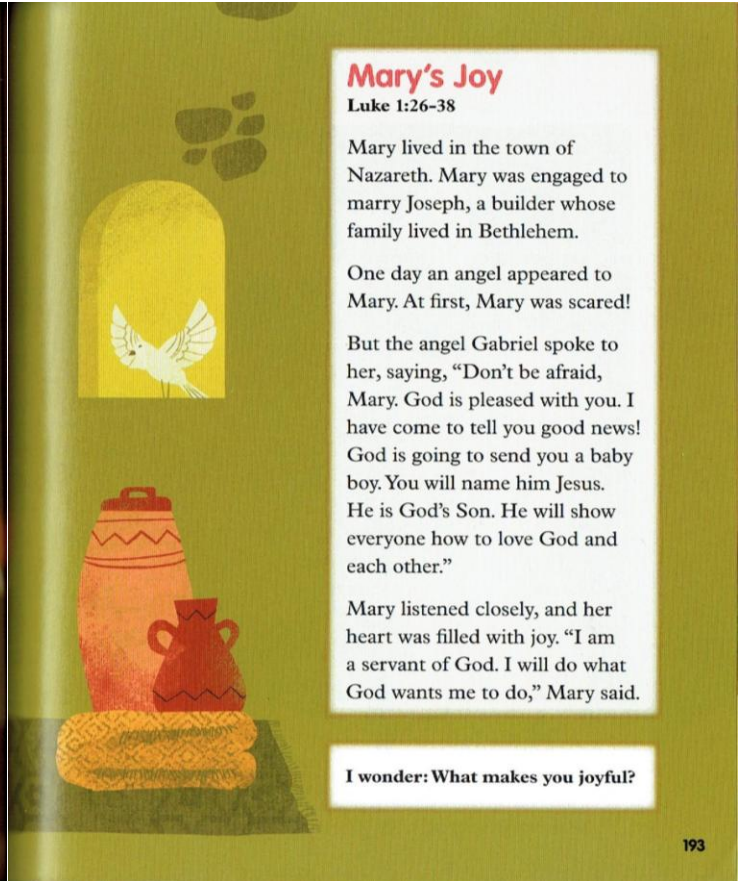
Go in Peace

Blessing: Bless your child by touching them and saying **"Joy to the world! Let joy fill your heart!**

Prayer: Dear God, we joyfully wait for the birth of Jesus. Help us share our joy with others.
Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



Mary's Joy

Luke 1:26-38

Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, a builder whose family lived in Bethlehem.

One day an angel appeared to Mary. At first, Mary was scared!

But the angel Gabriel spoke to her, saying, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. I have come to tell you good news! God is going to send you a baby boy. You will name him Jesus. He is God's Son. He will show everyone how to love God and each other."

Mary listened closely, and her heart was filled with joy. "I am a servant of God. I will do what God wants me to do," Mary said.

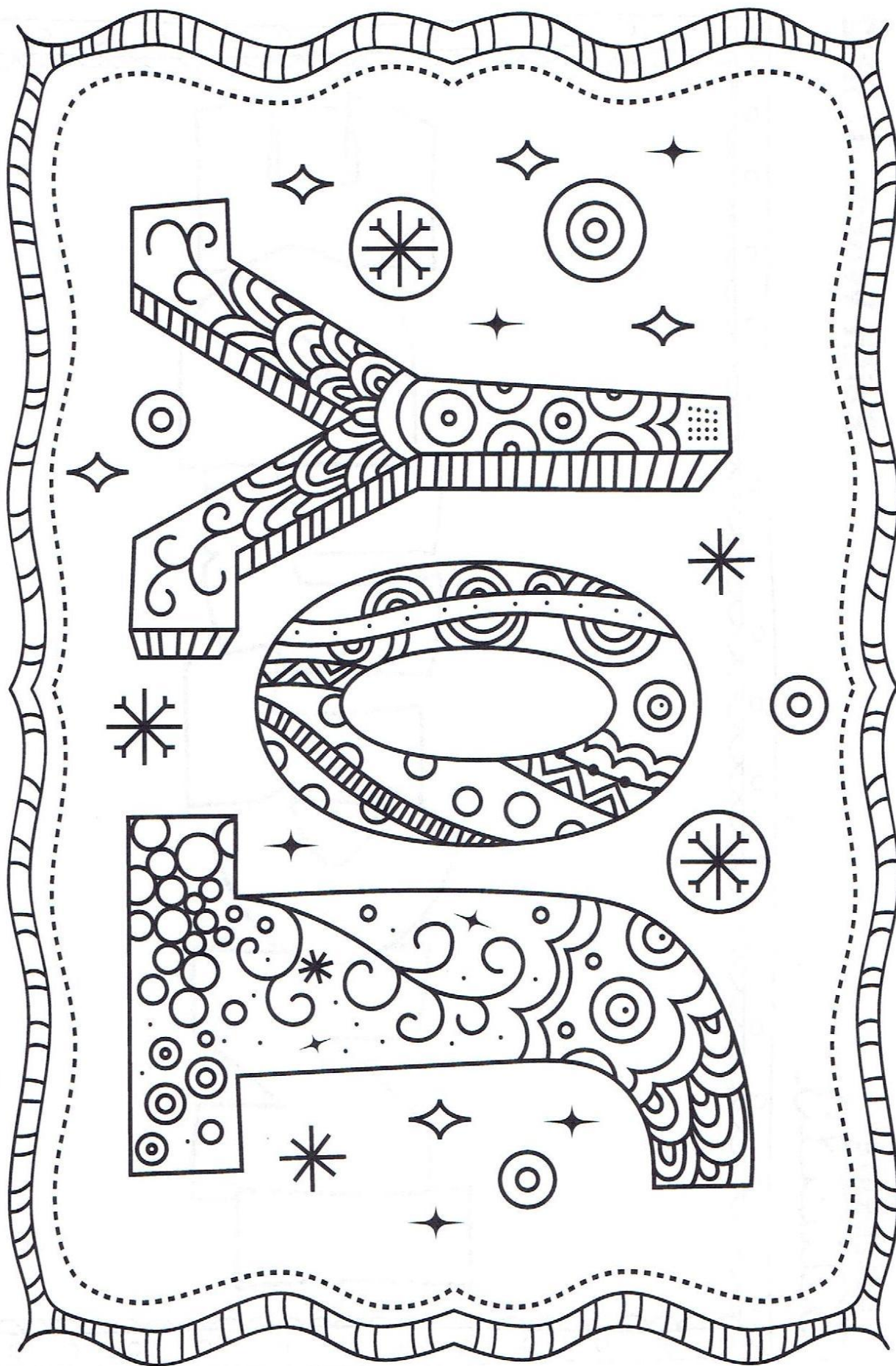
I wonder: What makes you joyful?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 1

Celebrate Wonder
Winter 2020-21



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Preschool Activity

Prayer through Song and Play

Supplies: None

Say: In our Bible story we hear that Mary sang a song of joy to celebrate the news of Jesus' coming birth. We sing songs too at Christmas as we get ready to celebrate Baby Jesus. Let's learn a song (or songs) now.

Advent is a Time to Wait *(Tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")*

Advent is a time to wait, not quite time to celebrate.

Light the candles one by one, 'til this Advent time is done.

Christmas Day will soon be here, time for joy and time for cheer.

Someone's Coming: *(Tune: "Frère Jacques")*

Someone's coming, Someone's coming

Do you know just who?

Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming

Born for me, and born for you.

Our use the following fun Finger Plays:

Light a Candle: *(add a candle each week)*

Light one candle Advent's here *(Hold up 1 finger)*

Light one candle Advent's here

Light one candle Advent's here

Christmas time is near. (clap, clap)

Light two candles Advent's here *(Hold up 2 fingers)*

Light two candles Advent's here

Light two candles Advent's here

Christmas time is near. (clap, clap)

Light three candles Advent's here *(Hold up 3 fingers)*

Light three candles Advent's here

Light three candles Advent's here

Christmas time is near. (clap, clap)

Light four candles Advent's here *(Hold up 4 fingers)*

Light four candles Advent's here

Light four candles Advent's here

Christmas time is near. (clap, clap)

Our Best Gift:

Here's a tree with lots of branches

(Arms down, 45-degree angle)

Presents hiding down below

(Point down)

But our best gift is Baby Jesus

(Pretend to rock baby)

Sent from heaven long ago.

(Point to heaven)

Early Elementary Activity

Joy Messages (Art)

Supplies: Print out of Joy Messages below, colors or markers, scissors, hole punch, and yarn or string.

SAY: Our Bible story can bring us joy about Jesus. Print the page with Joy messages. Color each message and cut each message out. Make a Joy Message book by putting a hole in each corner and using yarn or string to put it together. Enjoy reading with an adult the messages of Joy! Which one is your favorite one?

Joy Messages

I am the Lord's servant.	The Lord is with you.
God is honoring you.	He will be God's Son.
Nothing is impossible for God.	Holy is his name.
I rejoice in God my savior.	He shows mercy to everyone.

Older Elementary Activity

Advent Joy Journal (Language Activity)

Supplies: Print the Advent Joy Journal, and colors, markers, or colored pencils and scissors. Once cut, fold into a book with 4 pages

Say: Have you ever kept a gratitude journal? Print the Advent Joy Journal which is similar to a gratitude journal. Each week remaining in Advent write or draw things that make you feel joyful.



Advent Joy Journal

This week I found joy in . . .

This week I found joy in . . .

Christmas brings me joy
because . . .

Advent Joy Journal

