



Start the Party: Celebrate the Good News

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.



Talk About the Bible Story

Open the Bible together and read Luke 2:8-20 or watch the video together on the Parent Cue app.


Engagement Questions

- Why is it challenging to have joy sometimes in our ordinary, everyday situations?
- How can Jesus change our lives?
- Who do you know who could use some joy?

Faith and Character Activity

Scan the QR code below for activities to guide kids at every phase to trust Jesus in a way that changes how they see God, themselves, and the rest of the world.

Scan the QR code to get started



Prayer

"Dear God, there are so many amazing reasons we can have joy in our lives. Help us to remember that even when times get tough, there is always something to be thankful for. Help us to notice those around us who may need this reminder and give us the courage to be good news in their life. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Weekly Parent Cues



Preteen

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

As your kid starts their day, tell them one thing about them that brings joy to your world.



Meal Time

At a meal this week, have everyone at the table answer this question: "Who do you know who could use some joy?"



Drive Time

While on the go, ask your kid: "What is something good you've heard about or seen lately?"



Bed Time

Pray for each other: "Jesus, thank You for bringing joy to the world. Will You also bring joy to our worlds? Let us see You at work in our lives and in the lives of people we meet every day."

More Ways to Engage with Your Kid



Faith & Character Activities



Worship Song of the Month



Download the Parent Cue app

AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



PARENT CUE

Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



Twelve horizontal dotted lines for journaling.



Day 1

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

Visit the Parent Cue app (available for iOS and Android) to watch this week's Bible story.

Download it for free at parentcue.org/app.

2. You learned:

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

3. You'd like to know:

A Devotional on Joy.

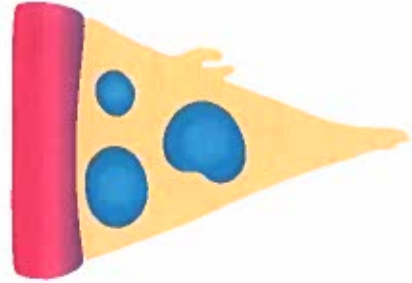
FOR AN **everyday faith.**

Day 2

Read Luke 2:8-20

Grab a sheet of paper and some colored pencils, pens, or whatever you'd like to draw with. As you read through Luke 2:8-20, draw emojis to represent the following things: shepherds, night, sheep, angel, good news, Savior, baby, angels, singing, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, baby, shepherds, angel, amazed, shepherds, Mary, treasure, heart, shepherds, praises to God.

After drawing the emojis in that order, recite the story of Jesus' birth aloud, using the emojis as your cue cards, or hints, to keep you on track! Then save the sheet of paper for later this week.



Day 4

Find the sheet of paper you used earlier in the week to write out the story of Jesus' birth, emoji-style.

Then share the story with at least one person—but the more the merrier! (Get it? Because "Merry Christmas.") Use the emojis as your cue cards, or hints, to keep you on track!

Afterward, take turns sharing with each other one way that **Jesus brings joy to the world**.



Day 5

Who do you know who could use some joy?

Grab your Bible and read Luke 2:17-18.

What did the shepherds do right after they saw Jesus?

And how did everyone respond to the news from the shepherd?

That's right—they were amazed at what God was doing. And after you see what God is doing, you can't help but have joy, right? Because joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

Who in your life could use some joy right now? Think of family members, friends, neighbors, teammates. . . Especially think of people who might be alone or hurting. What is something you could do to share with them the joy that Jesus brings? Recruit a friend or ask a parent for help and make it happen!

Day 3

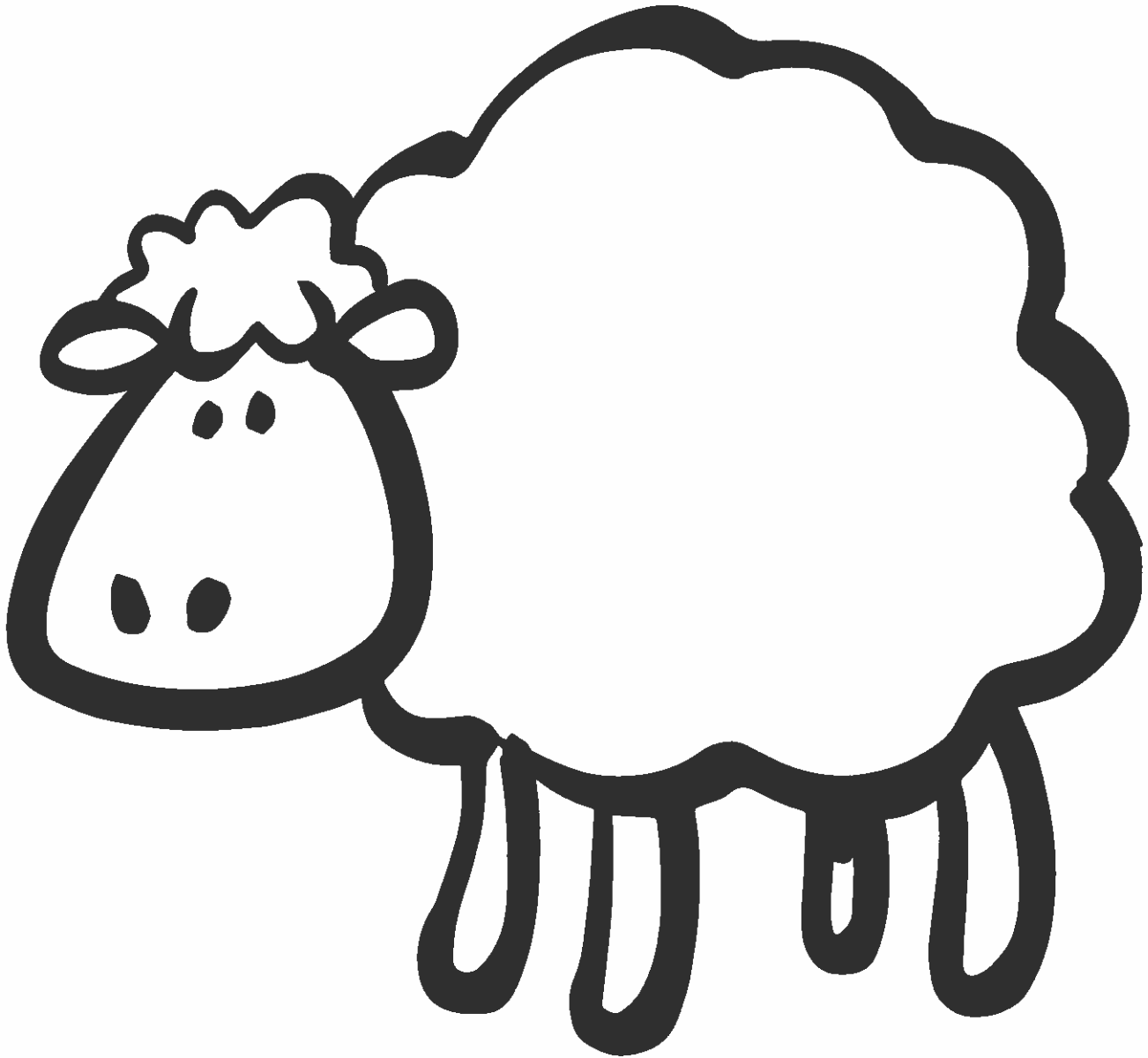
It's Christmas in July!

Well, not really, but we are talking about when Jesus was born, so it's feeling a little Christmas-y, isn't it?

Crank up some Christmas instrumental music (maybe more of the "Silent Night" variety and not so much "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree")—get a parent's help if you need it.

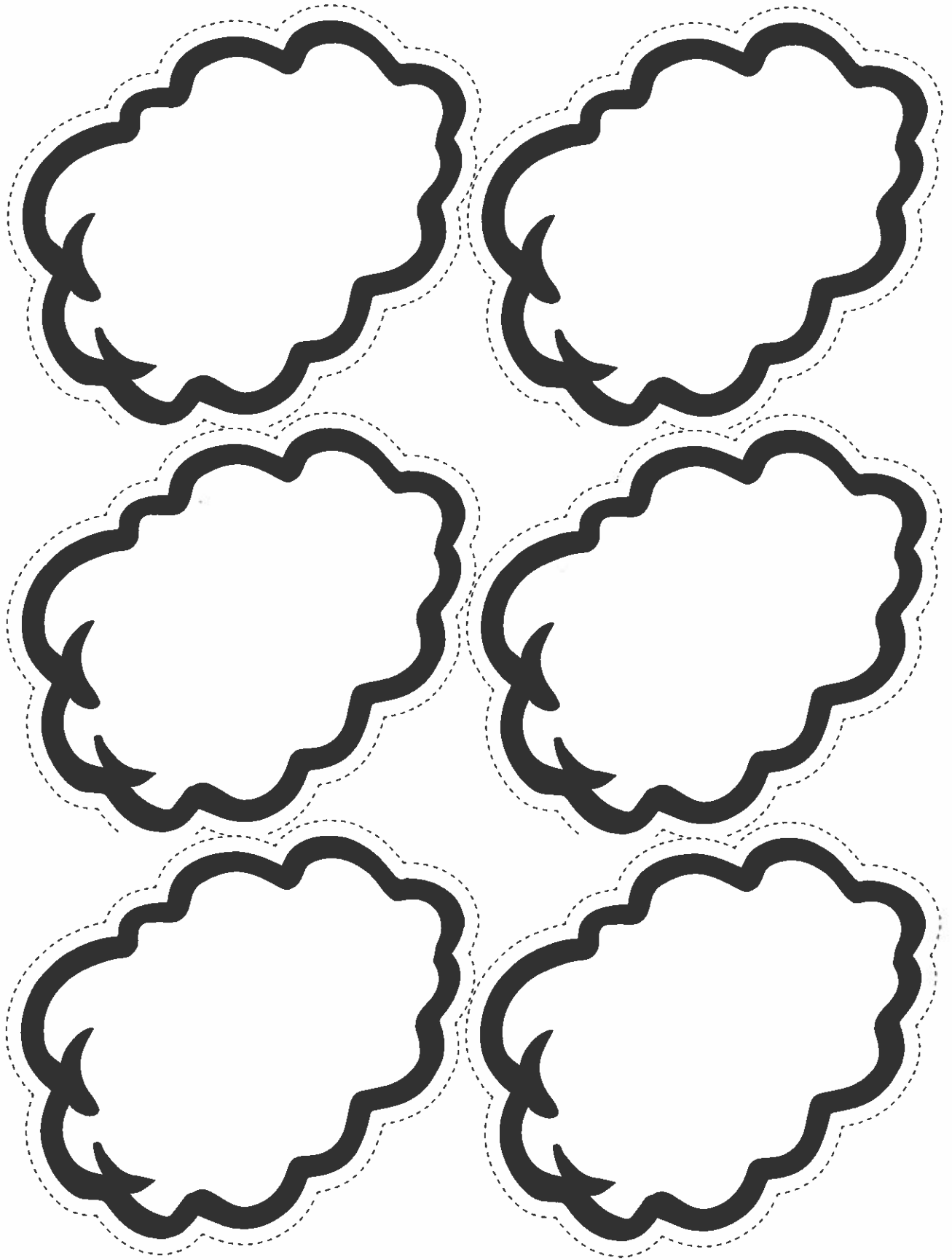
As you listen to the music, close your eyes and imagine it's that first Christmas, and you've just heard the amazing news that the Savior has been born. What would you feel? JOY, right? **Jesus brings joy to the world.**

With your eyes still closed, take a couple of minutes to thank God for sending Jesus, and share all the ways that Jesus brings joy to the world—and to YOUR world.



What to Do:
Print on paper, one for each Small Group.

"Sheep Guide" Activity Page
July 2024, Week 1, Preteen Small Group
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What to Do:
Print on white cardstock and cut apart, one cutout for each kid.

"Sheep Tails" Activity Page
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Wedding

Pool Party

**Birthday
Party**

**Christmas
Party**

**Graduation
Party**

**Retirement
Party**

Baby Shower

Dance Party

Dinner Party

**Anniversary
Party**

**Slumber
Party**

**New Year's
Eve Party**

What to Do:
Print on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group.

"Party Charades" Activity Page
July 2024, Week 1, Preteen Small Group
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God had a plan to bless the entire world through the Israelites.

Even though God's people kept turning away, God promised to send a Savior to rescue them one day.

God sent an angel to tell a girl named Mary that she would give birth to a baby Boy, God's own Son.

Mary and Joseph had to take a trip to Bethlehem for a census, which is where people are counted.

Bethlehem was so crowded with all the people who were traveling in for the census that Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay.

The only place Mary and Joseph could find was the same place where the animals stayed! Baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger, or animal feeding trough.

There were fields nearby where shepherds were keeping watch over their flock of sheep.

The shepherds were surprised by a bright light in the sky. An angel of the Lord told them not to be afraid. The angel told them about Jesus and where to find Him.

The angel was joined by other angels, and they all praised God together.

The shepherds decided to go find the Baby the angel had told them about. They hurried off to Bethlehem and found Jesus exactly where the angel had said.

The shepherds were filled with joy and couldn't help but go and spread the good news that the Savior had been born!

What to Do:

Print on cardstock, cut apart, and hole punch; one set for each Small Group.

"Jingle Bell Review" Activity Page

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