

## Start the Party: Celebrate the Good News

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.



### MEMORY VERSE

“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”  
Philippians 4:4, NIRV

### 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

- Who do you know who could use some joy?
- How can you share God's joy with others?
- What helps you remember that **Jesus brings joy to the world?**

### 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, thank You SO MUCH for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us always choose to focus on the joyful news that You sent Jesus. Whether it's an exciting or ordinary day, help us always celebrate the truth that **Jesus brings joy to the world!** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

### Weekly Parent Cues

# Elementary

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: “What is one way that Jesus brings joy to your world?”



### 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



## Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

Read: Luke 2:10

DAY

1



### Where is Jesus?

Pretend you are a shepherd that just heard about the birth of Jesus! Set out to look high and low for Him!

Play a game of Hide and Seek with some family or friends. Using a baby doll or stuffed animal, take turns hiding the toy. The ones not hiding the toy are the seekers; switch once you have found the toy.

**LOOK** for Jesus in the world around you.

DAY

3

### Great Joy!

Luke 2:10 talks about the joy that Jesus would bring to this world. Look up this week's verse and create motions or a song to go along with the verse. Think about the joy that those around during Jesus' birth must have felt!

**KNOW** that Jesus' birth brought joy to so many.



DAY

2

### The Manger



Look up photos of what a manger would have looked like when Jesus was born. Using craft supplies and toys that you have on hand, recreate a manger scene. Ask your adult to help you retell the story from Luke 2:8-20 about Jesus' birth!

**THANK** God for sending Jesus.

DAY

4

### Joy & Love

Jesus' birth was a joy to the world. God sending Jesus to earth was a show of great love. What are some ways you have seen God's love in your life? Thank God by using the prayer below or by saying your own.

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 "Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to this earth. You loved all of us so much that You put Him here so that we can see Your love. Thank You for showing me love through the people in my life who love me, the ways You give me what I need, and the things that You do for me. You take such good care of me. Thank You, God."  
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**ASK** God to continue to show you all the ways you are loved.

Jesus brings  
joy to the world.





One night, a group of shepherds were in the field watching their sheep.  
(Guide shepherds to pretend to care for their sheep. They can “pet” them, count them, etc.)

Suddenly, a brilliant light filled the sky!  
(Cue one angel to come near shepherds.)

An angel of the Lord appeared to [the shepherds]! And the glory of the Lord shone around them.  
[The shepherds] were terrified. (Luke 2:9, NIV)  
(Guide shepherds to look afraid.)

The angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11, NIV)  
The shepherds were amazed!  
(Guide shepherds to look amazed.)

Then the angel said, “Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12, NIV)  
Suddenly, a large group of angels appeared with the first one.  
(Guide other angels to come.)

They said, “May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!” (Luke 2:14, NIV)  
And just like that, the angels disappeared.  
(Guide angels to step away.)

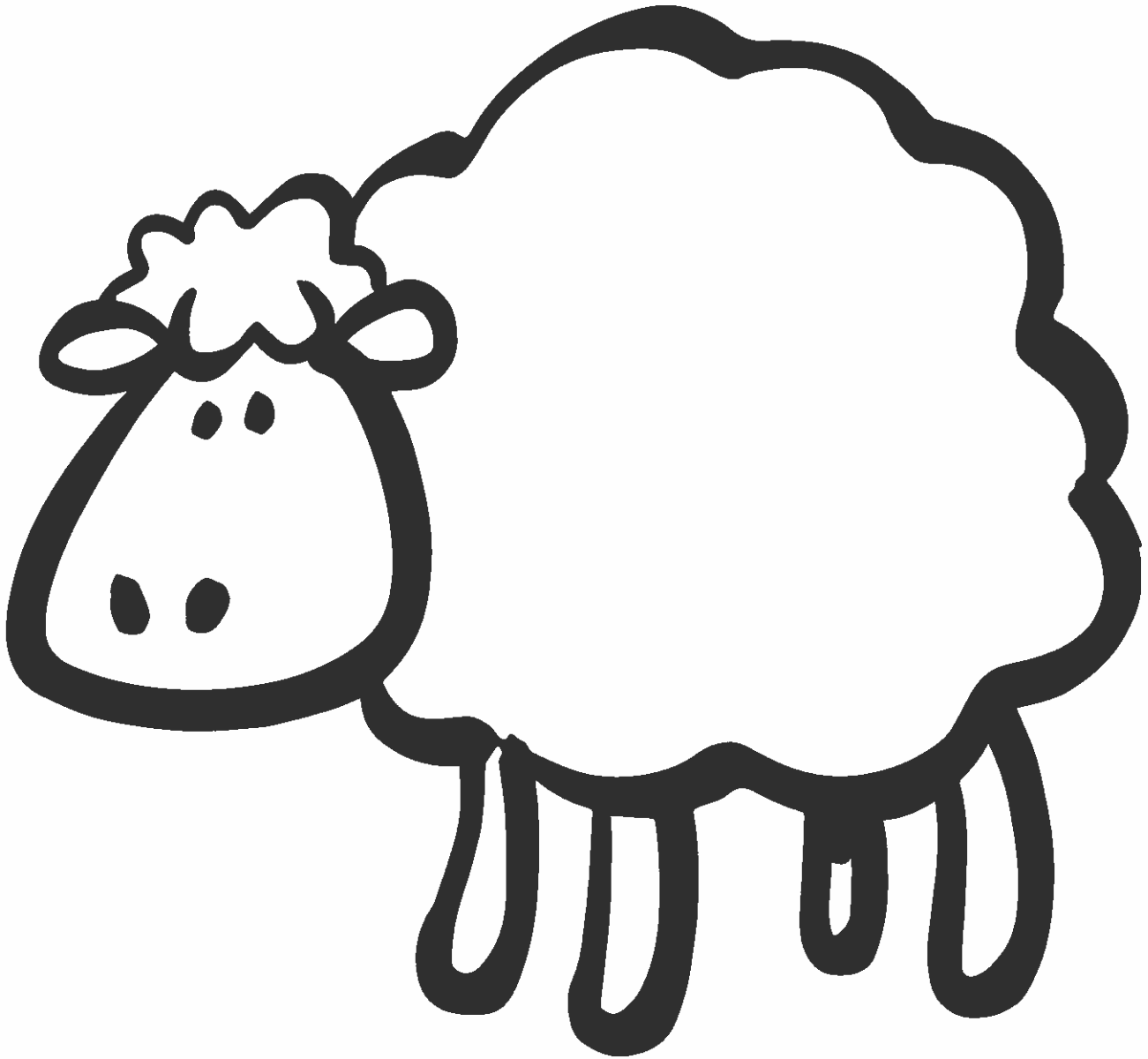
The shepherds said, “Let’s see this thing that’s happened!” (Luke 2:15, NIV)  
So the shepherds went on their way to Bethlehem . . .  
(Guide shepherds to move towards your “Bethlehem.”)

. . . and found Mary, Joseph, and the Baby. The Baby was lying in a manger, an animal's feeding trough, just as the angel had said.  
(Guide the shepherds to kneel excitedly before Baby Jesus. Guide Mary and Joseph to smile.)

After the shepherds had seen Jesus, they hurried out into the streets of Bethlehem.  
(Guide shepherds to move to the other side of the group area, joyfully.)

The shepherds were so filled with joy that they shared the good news about Jesus with everyone they met.  
(Guide shepherds to say: “God sent a Savior! God sent a Savior!”)

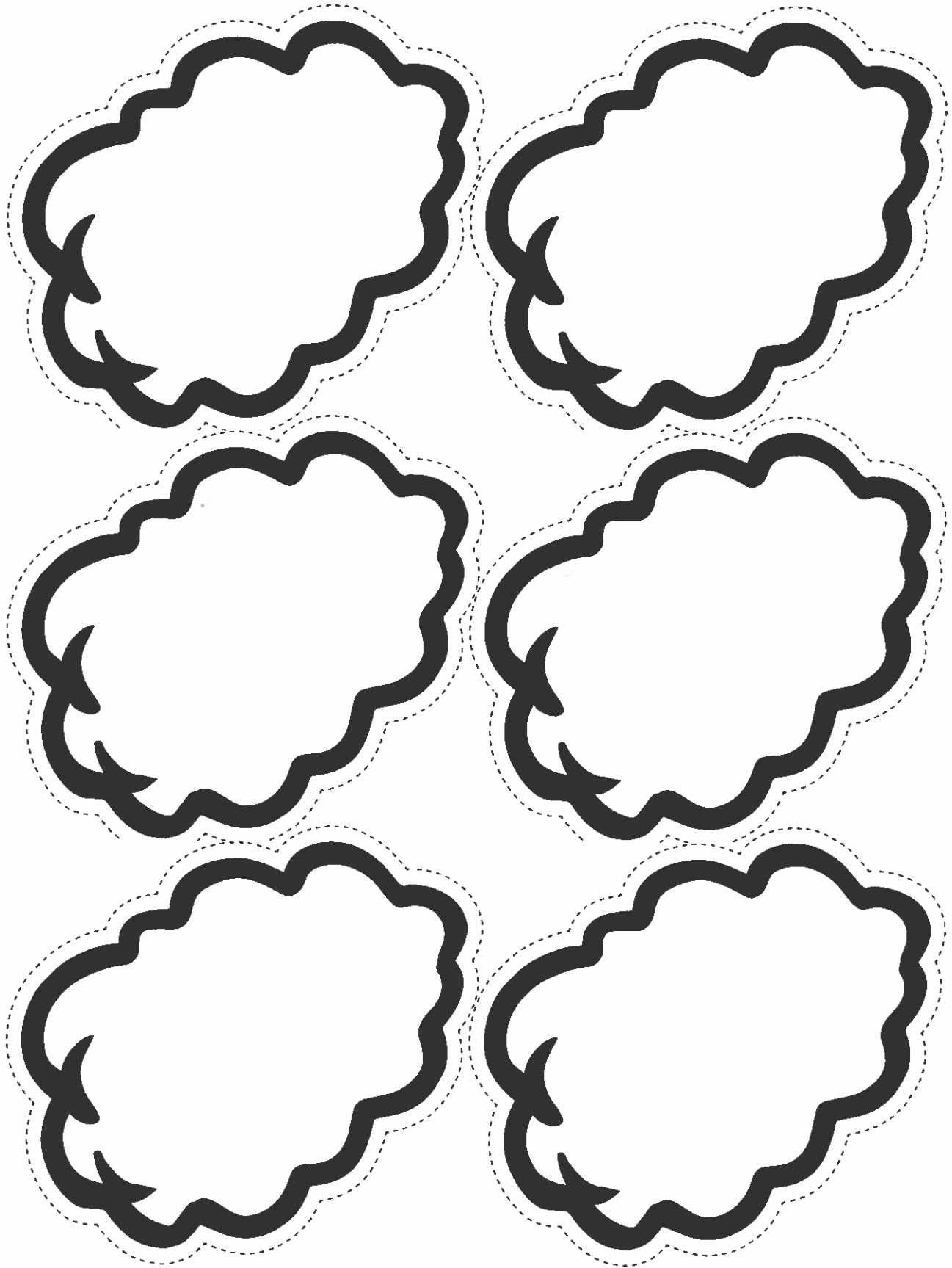
God had chosen a few ordinary shepherds to share the most important message ever!



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**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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