

Sing Songs of Joy

(JOY)

Here We Come!

As the children arrive, have Christmas carols playing. Add decorations to the worship center. Sing songs the children are learning for a Christmas program. Sing familiar songs the children enjoy.

People who are happy feel like singing songs of joy.



Scripture Words and Worship

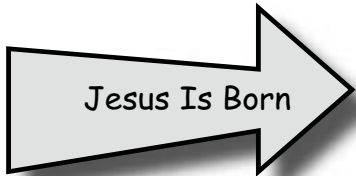
Print each word of the scripture on a happy face.

Scripture Words

I bring you joyful news.
—Luke 2:10 adapted

Live and Learn

Tell the story of the birth of Jesus from the time Joseph and Mary left Nazareth to the visit of the shepherds. The story can be found in Luke 2:4–20. Use figures from a nativity scene. Let the children play with the figures and hand them over when needed as the story unfolds. Use the following as a guide for telling the story.



Jesus Is Born

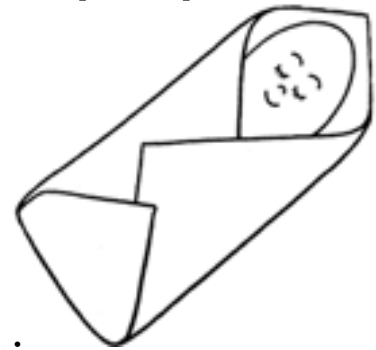
- Joseph and Mary had planned and packed for their long trip.
- Lots of people were on the road traveling.
- The town of Bethlehem was crowded with people.
- Mary and Joseph couldn't find a room in the inn.
- Mary was tired and it was time for baby Jesus to be born.
- The owner of the inn felt sorry for Mary and Joseph.
- He offered them a place in the stable behind the inn where the animals were kept.
- That night baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in special baby clothes.
- Joseph fixed a box with straw to make a soft place to lay the baby.
- Mary and Joseph were amazed looking at their tiny baby. They were so happy.
- Most people didn't know baby Jesus had been born. They were busy going here and there.
- But on the hills outside of town, things were different!
- The shepherds were out that night watching over their sheep.
- The shepherds had to stay awake to make sure the sheep were safe.
- But the shepherds were surprised when the dark night sky was filled with light.
- The shepherds looked up and saw angels everywhere. "Don't be afraid," one of the angels said.
- "We have wonderful news for you. Baby Jesus is born. You can go and see him."
- The angels were so happy they were singing. "Glory to God. Peace on earth," they sang.
- The shepherds could hardly wait to see baby Jesus. They hurried to Bethlehem and found the stable.
- Sure enough, there was baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph.
- The shepherds told God thank you for this new baby.
- Then they sang all the way back to their sheep.

Up and at 'Em

Pretend to be shepherds taking care of the sheep. Pet them, walk around them, lead them to water, lie down with them at night. Stuffed animals can add to the experience. If the room can be darkened, have everything quiet and turn off the lights. Let the children make noises like sheep in the darkness. Turn on the light suddenly. Everyone jumps up. At first they are afraid. Then they hear the angel tell them the good news. The shepherds hurry around and around the room until they come to the manger scene. Replay the story.

Sense-ations

Make simple nativity figures using cloth and wooden spoons. Draw faces on one end. Wrap the figure in cloth to represent Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus. The cloth can be glued in place or fastened with Velcro buttons. Sheep can be created by adding cotton to spoon shapes.



Moving Music

- "Away in a Manger"
- Christmas music

Story Talking

Children are natural missionaries. They willingly share things they have learned. Use this time to tell and retell the Christmas story, letting the children fill in as much as possible. Use the nativity figures, Bible or picture books, or any other visual that will become a reminder when the children see it again. Encourage them to tell the story they have learned to family and friends.

There We Go

Decorate a picture of the nativity scene with crayons. Cloth can be added to the robes. Cotton can be used for the sheep. A straw can become a shepherd's staff. A square of soft flannel can become the blanket over baby Jesus. A scene is included in the Patterns section. Coloring book pages can also be used.

