

# WEEK 3: JOY

*week 3:*

# JOY

And the angel said to them,  
"Fear not, for behold, I bring  
good news of great joy that  
will be for all the people. For  
unto you is born this day in  
the city of David a Savior, who  
is Christ the Lord.



*Luke*  
*2:10-11*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

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## READ

Read Luke 2:8-14

## REFLECT

The Angels brought good news of great JOY! What was this great news? That Jesus the Messiah - the long awaited savior - had come at last. What a joyful event to celebrate! This was the best news anyone could share and the angels had the great privilege of being able to share it first. After telling the shepherds this great news and before they left, the angels had one more task to complete: Praise God! After they shared their great news, they worshipped God, by saying “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” (Luke 2:14) Even the thought of people beholding the glory of God caused the angels to worship and give glory back to God. We should all be filled with such joy at the thought of beholding God’s glory!

## ACTIVITY

Using only what you can find around your house, add angels to your nativity scene. The Bible says there was “a multitude of the heavenly hosts,” so don’t just make one angel, get the whole family involved and make lots of angels! You can even have a contest to see who makes the best angel.

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

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## READ

Read Psalm 103:20-22, 148:1-2

## REFLECT

If the most important people, like the wise men, and the lowliest of people, like the shepherds, can worship God, why not the angels too? Angels are God's creation, and all of creation is meant to worship the Lord, so it only makes sense that angels would spend time worshipping the God who created them. The angels had great reason to worship God: He had finally sent the long awaited savior - Jesus Christ - to rescue mankind. But we have an even greater reason to worship God: Jesus Christ has not only come, he also died so that we might have forgiveness from our sins and be restored to a right relationship with God. This is the greatest news we could receive, and also the greatest news we could ever share.

Spend some time writing, singing, or saying a prayer of praise to God like the angels did Luke. For inspiration, reread some of the verses from previous days, such as Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 67, and Isaiah 60:1-3.

## PRAY

Thank God for giving us the privilege of being able to worship Him. Ask God to give you words to pray back to him that will bring him glory.

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

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## READ

Read Luke 1:26-38

## REFLECT

The Bible does not tell us much about Mary or why God chose her to be the mother of Jesus. What we do know about Mary is that she was favored by God. God chose her specifically to be the mother of the savior. This was a big responsibility, but an even bigger blessing. She was the one who nurtured, fed, and cared for the messiah. She was the one who rocked him to sleep and comforted him when he cried. She had the privilege of raising the Son of God. In doing so, she had the daily blessing of beholding the glory of God in her own son. Mary recognized this privilege and sang a song of praise to God out of the overflow of her blessing. You can read her song of praise in Luke 1:46-55

## ACTIVITY

To make Mary, use markers markers to scribble on a coffee filter (make sure you have a piece of paper under the filter or your surface will be colorful!). Then, getting your fingers wet, flick water on the filter to create a marbled effect. Let this dry for about an hour. Make a ball with a second coffee filter, place it in the middle of the colorful filter and cover the ball with the colorful filter. Use a rubber band or string to hold these two pieces together and create a head (where the ball is) and a skirt (where the colorful filter is).

Additional activity: Using the maps in the back of your Bible (or type “Old Testament Israel map” into your search engine), trace the path from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Research how far that is and how long it would have taken Mary and Joseph to travel.

## READ

Read Isaiah 7:14

## REFLECT

Names hold a special importance in the Bible, which is why God often chooses or changes people's names. It would only make sense then, that God would decide what His own son's name would be. The messianic title, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), means "God with us." The name Jesus (Luke 1:31) means "God saves." So with the names Jesus and Immanuel, all the people would know who Jesus was - God incarnate - and what he came to do - save God's people. This is still true for us today. Jesus says in Luke 19:9-10 that he has come to seek and save the lost, and he promised in Matthew 28:20 that he would be with us always, even to the end of the age.

In what ways is Jesus still at work today to seek and save the lost? If Jesus is no longer on earth, how can he still be with us always as he promised? (See John 14:16-17)

## PRAY

Thank God for sending Jesus to be God with us and the God who saves us. If you are not sure that you know Jesus as the God who saved you and is with you always, ask God to reveal himself to you today.