

# Advent Activity Packet



## Week 4: JOY

### Joy in Faith

Joy is an interesting idea when it comes to faith. Depending on your background or traditions, we may have been taught that we shouldn't have joy in what we do in faith but have reverence.

*I argue that is hogwash. In the giving of ourselves to Christ, we should find a deeper sense of Joy. A joy of giving to others, of caring for others, of taking on projects to build relationship and community. As you go through your life, seek the joy that comes with faith in Christ Jesus.*

### The Scriptures for this Week

During Advent this year we are using the Revised Common Lectionary. The RCL is a resource that helps us move through scripture and work to cover the Bible over the course of three years. So, for your reviewing pleasure, below are the scriptures for the Sunday of Joy to meditate and reflect on.

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- Luke 1: 26-38
- Luke 1: 46-55
- Romans 16: 25-27








### Living in JOY

Sometimes it seems like finding Joy in life is so hard, especially when there is always something “next” to do or when you see the state of the world. But you

see, Joy is more than just happiness, Joy is a deep sense of pleasure in something. As Christians, it is in our faith and the things we do in faith that should help bring us joy. Giving to a good cause, putting a smile on someone's face, letting someone know you care are all ways of expressing joy (and ways we can receive joy). There is also the Joy the comes from Christ, in the knowledge we have of his life and ministry and his work in us. So, while we may have a holiday season that is a bit of a let down or we may a plethora of things going on, know that there is joy to be had in our lives, especially as we live for Christ.

### Weekly Symbols

Each week we will be providing symbols in this advent packet. These symbols are for you to reflect on the meaning of. Make sure to read the scriptures with each symbol. Take some time to write down your reflections and consider sharing them on Sunday Morning!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
Angel Luke 2:9-11	Baby Jesus Luke 2: 1-7	Star Matt 2:1-8	Birthday Candle John 8:12	Candy Cane John 10:11-18	Map Isaiah 43:1-4	The Truth John 14:1-7

## Activity: Box of Joy

### **Supplies:**

- Strips of Paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Empty gift box
- Timer



Give every player some paper and writing utensils. Have Everyone write down Christmas Themed Words (person, place or thing) that everyone will know. Place the papers in the box and mix them up. Each person will be given 30 seconds to try and get the group to guess the word, try for as many as possible. In round one, the boxholder can use descriptive words but not the word or rhyming words.

In Round 2, the boxholder can only give one word as a hint

In round 3, the boxholder can only use charades

In Round 4, the boxholder can only use sounds

## DIY Hot Choc Bar

Spread joy in your home with a DIY Hot Chocolate Bar!

Set it up so everyone can personalize their cup of cocoa.

Give options for Marshmallows, cookies, chocolate, maybe special mugs?

Set it up for a fun impromptu night with family, or invite friends/neighbors over to share in the joy of community.

### *Ideas for Toppings*

- Flavor Syrups
- Whipped Cream
- Cookies
- Creamer/milk
- Cinnamon
- Marshmallows
- Candies (crushed)
- Salted Carmel
- Sprinkles
- Espresso

### Family Prayer for Joy

Dear God, thank you so much for the gift of your Song, Jesus, the best and most perfect gift any of us will ever receive.

Thank you for saving us not from far away but by coming down into the mess and pain of this world and becoming a human like us. Thank you for the beauty of joy. Help us to reflect your joy back to others. Teach us how to see the kind of joy the magi felt even when things are hard. Give us courage to be like the shepherds and continue to share the Good News of salvation to everyone we meet. Fill us with your joy this season. In Jesus name, Amen.

## ~Christmas Around the World~



### Fun Facts:

- **Ukraine:** Christmas Eve is marked by a twelve-course, meatless dinner, with each course representing one of the twelve disciples.
- **India:** People decorate mango or banana trees instead of evergreens, and Christians will often place lights on their roofs as a symbol that Jesus is the light of the world.
- **Ethiopia:** Christmas is known as Ganna or Genna. It is celebrated on Jan 7 with a candlelit procession around the church followed by singing, playing games and sharing a meal together.



### Questions for Reflection

- How do you think you would have felt if you were one of the Shepherds or Magi?
- What is one of the best gifts or surprises you have ever felt?
- How has God called you to bring Joy to our world today?

### Peanut Butter Logs

1c Milk (nonfat dry Crystals)	
1 c Rice Crispies	½ lb Peanut Butter
1 c 100% Bran Flake	½ c Honey
½ c raisins	

Combine All ingredients well. Flatten into large pan. Chill overnight. Cut into 2x1 inch servings and serve!

By

Brenda McKenzie



## References Used for this Packet

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