

SMALL GROUP | DAY 1

WHAT MAKES ME FEEL JOYFUL?



Bible

Luke 2:10-11 - "But the angel said to them, '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.'"

Supplies

- Cardstock with stable outline (1 per camper)
- Colour ink pads for thumbprints
- Markers and pencils
- Playbills and wristbands
- Dance party print-outs
- Bible

Digging Deeper

Most people know what Christmas is, but not everyone knows the true story of Christmas – Jesus's birth on Earth as a baby. So many people were able to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and even more people experienced the joy that he offered while he lived on Earth.

Even when things seemed impossible or crazy, God's good plan was joyful for everyone involved. Luke 2:10 says that the news about Jesus coming to Earth brings "great joy for all the people."

Sometimes we're tempted to think that joy can just mean temporary happiness – being happy in just one moment because something good happened, like eating cake or getting a hug from a friend. And those things can be good, but true joy is deeper than that. It means that even when things seem crazy or we are struggling, we can keep being positive and staying strong because of things that make us joyful.

Discussion Questions

- How do you and your family celebrate Christmas?
- What is something that always makes you smile?
- If you could plan the ultimate party, what would it include?



Knowing Jesus is worth celebrating.

START THE PARTY! | JOY

DREAM

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Activity – Joy Corners

Designate a corner of the room to each of: Not Joyful, A Little Joyful, Pretty Joyful, and Super Joyful. Then read out the following prompts and have campers walk to where they would feel based on the prompt. Cut some of the questions if campers are not engaged, or add more if campers are enjoying.

- How do you feel when someone invites you to join their game?
- How do you feel when someone remembers your name?
- How do you feel when you make a new friend?
- How do you feel when your family spends time together?
- How do you feel when you get a hug from someone you love?
- How do you feel when it's your birthday?
- How do you feel when you hear your favourite song?
- How do you feel when you get to perform on stage?
- How do you feel when you accomplish something difficult?
- How do you feel when you help someone?
- How do you feel when someone thanks you?
- How do you feel when you pray?
- How do you feel when you hear a Bible story?
- How do you feel when you sing worship songs?
- How do you feel when you know Jesus loves you?
- How do you feel when things don't go your way?
- How do you feel when you're having a hard day but someone helps you?

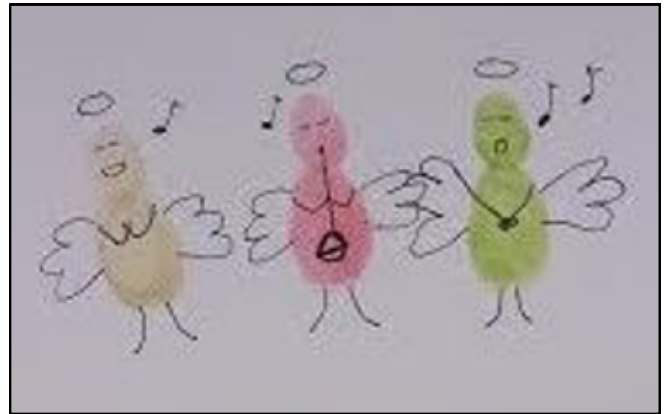
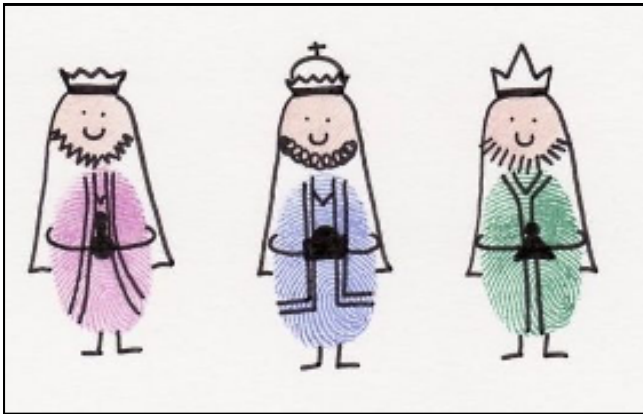
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Activity - Nativity Scenes

Use this opportunity to remind campers of the details of the Nativity story. Each camper is to be given a small piece of cardstock (with a stable outline on it) and will use their fingers and thumbs to create little prints on the paper. Then they will turn the prints into people and animals from the birth of Jesus, creating their own little nativity to take home. Attach each “nativity scene” inside their Playbill.



Real Talk:

- Why do you think Jesus’s birth brought people joy?
- When do you feel the most joyful?
- Can you still have joy, even on hard days? What do you think?
- What makes it easy for you to feel joyful? What makes it hard?

Hand out Playbills and attach wristbands to campers

We call this our **TAKE ACTION** Playbill because we are going to ask you to “take action” on the things you learn at VISTO everyday! Sometimes we can get so caught up in what we are learning that we don’t always take the time to notice what others are doing, or put into action what we’ve learned.

Each day at **VISTO** there will be an activity to do and when you bring it back to camp the next day we want to celebrate what you have done! In addition, we have a special video for you to watch each day & this wristband is going to be your reminder all week long!

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TODAY'S TAKE ACTION

Feel that joy! Find your favourite song and take some time tonight to dance and sing it out. Ask a friend or family member to join you, and share that joyful feeling with them, too.

Write down the name of the song you chose to dance to in your Playbill and be ready to share it with your Crew Leader tomorrow!



Dance Party!

Person I danced with

Song we danced to

JOY

Prayer

Prayer is talking to God. Did you know that God hears you when you talk to Him? Your thoughts, your words, any day, anytime and anywhere! Some people like to close their eyes when they pray. Some people pray and talk to God as they go about their day.

Talking to God in prayer is like talking to your best friend. Tell Him anything, when you are happy or sad. He loves to hear your prayers, and He loves to talk to you. Prayer is a quiet moment to listen to God, too.

Let's pray to God now.

Dear God, we thank you for allowing us to be joyful by getting to know each other at VISTO this week! We know that the Christmas story shows us Jesus's birth, and it brought joy to so many people. Help us to look for things that bring us joy as we go about our week. Amen.

START THE PARTY! | JOY