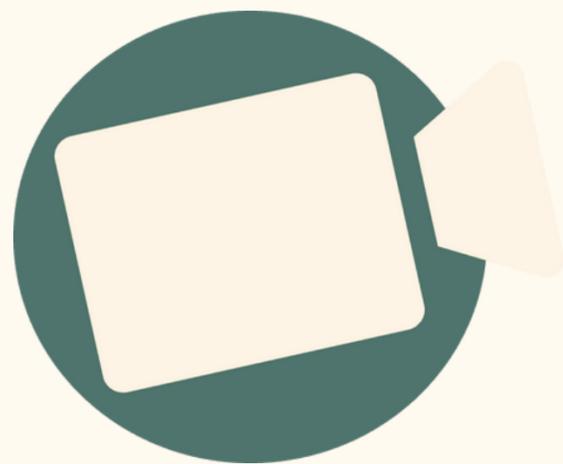


ADVENT 2025

THE JOY OF
CHRISTMAS

Weclome

to Advent 2025



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JOY

Session One Mary's Story

Joy in Connection

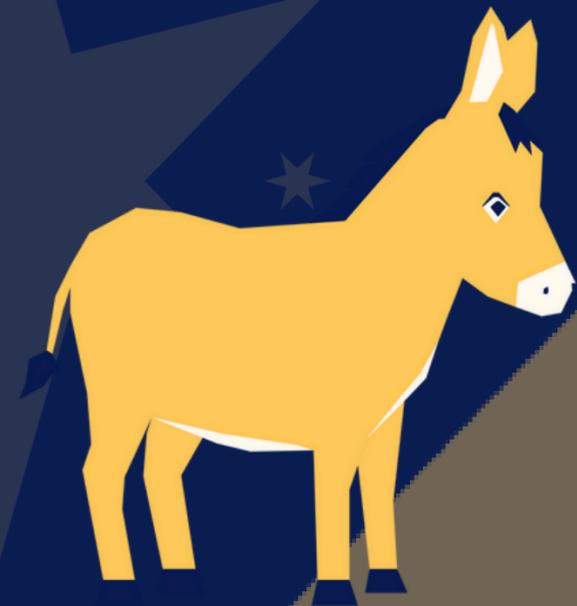
Liturgical Opening

Leader:

The Lord of glory be with you.

Response:

The Lord bless you.



I wonder...

...how does this picture represent connection?

★ I wonder if you can think of a time when you've felt connected to others?

★ How did that help you?



Session One
Mary's Story
Joy in Connection

JOY



Bible Passage

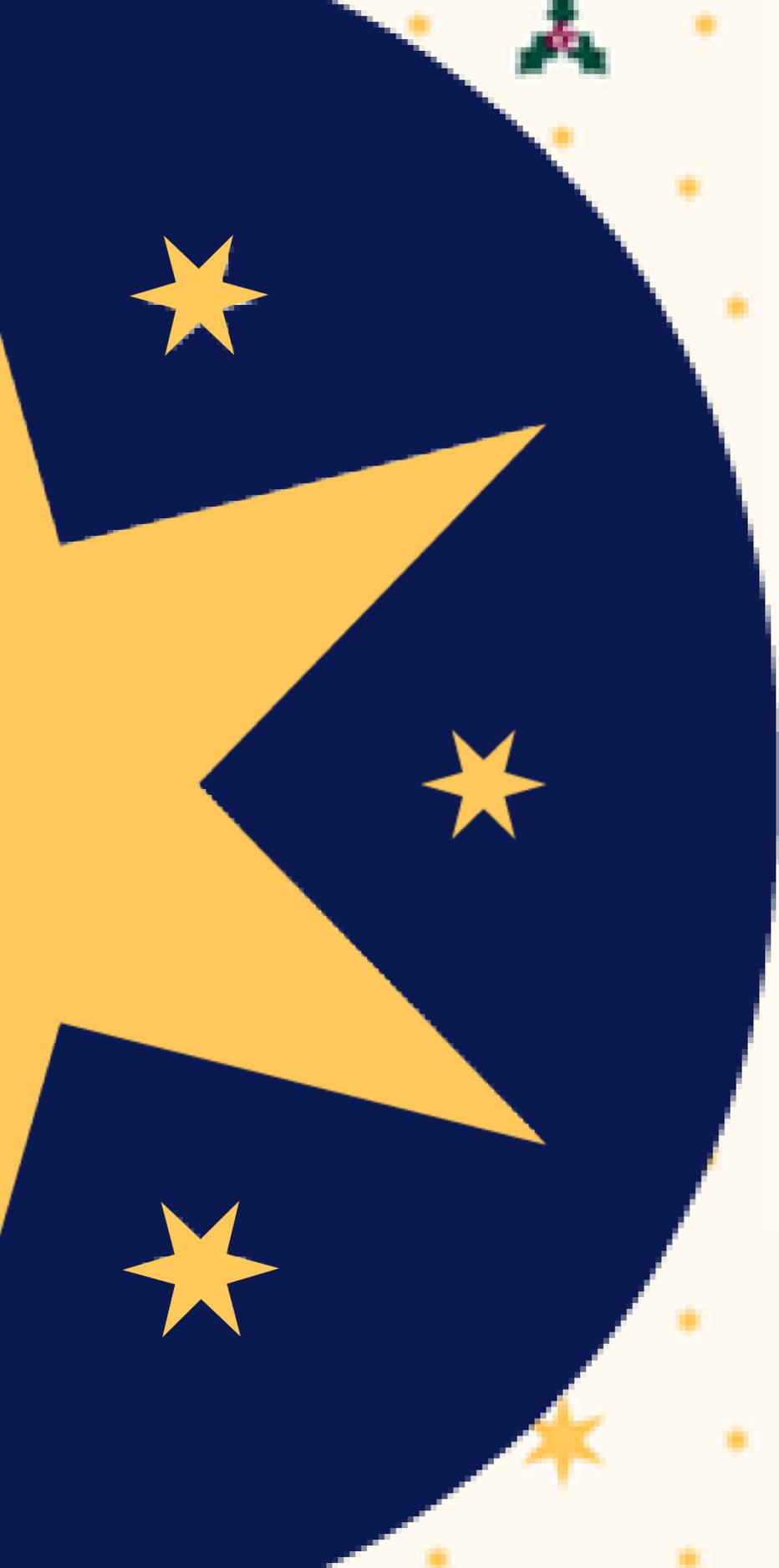
Luke 1:26-38; 46-50

- ★ How might Mary have felt after hearing from the angel that she was going to have God's son?
- ★ Who does Mary go to connect with and how do they help her?
- ★ What does Mary sing about?



Session One
Mary's Story
Joy in Connection





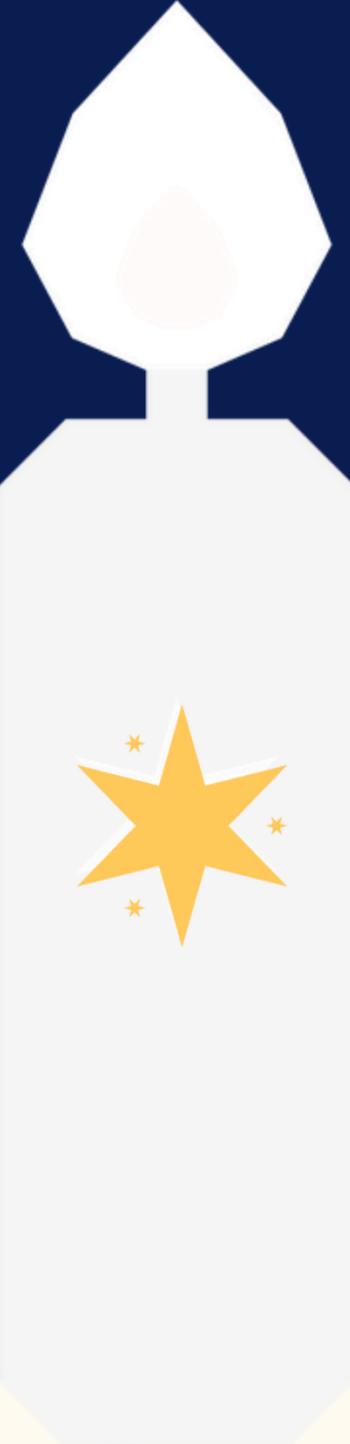
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Session One
Mary's Story

Joy in Connection





Reflection

- ★ What helps you feel connected? (to the world, to family, to others, to God)
Where do you feel you belong?
- ★ How might you connect with other pupils in your class or school that you don't know well?
- ★ How could you connect more with your local community?



Action

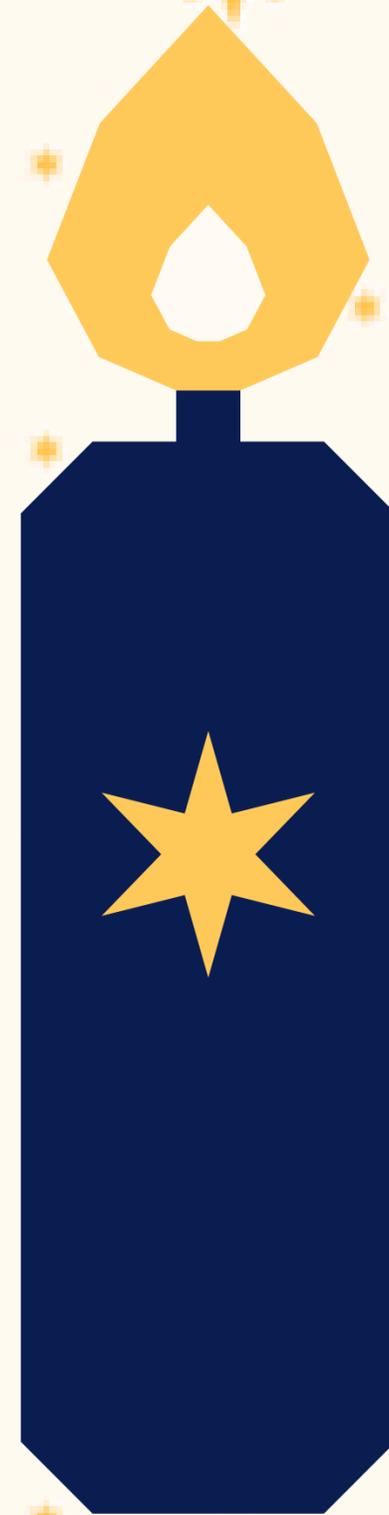
- ★ Connect with someone who is having a hard time. Do something together that will bring joy. Maybe watch a Christmas film or make a Christmas craft.
- ★ Create messages, pictures, cards or gifts of encouragement for those who might feel unconnected and bring them joy.
- ★ Connect with others, by talking, playing, sharing food.



Prayer 1

Lord Jesus, light of the world, thank you for Mary's song of praise and her example of connecting with you, which brought the world a joyous gift.

Amen



Session One
Mary's Story
Joy in Connection

Prayer 2

Father God, thank you for all you have given us. As we get ready for Christmas help us connect with those around us especially those who are feeling lonely.

Amen

Liturgical Ending

Leader:

May we rejoice in
God's message of joy

Response:

And show that joy in
our lives.

Amen.

**NEXT
WEEK**



Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting

Session Two

Mary and Joseph

Joy in Trusting

Liturgical Opening

Leader:

The Lord of glory be with you.

Response:

The Lord bless you.



I wonder...

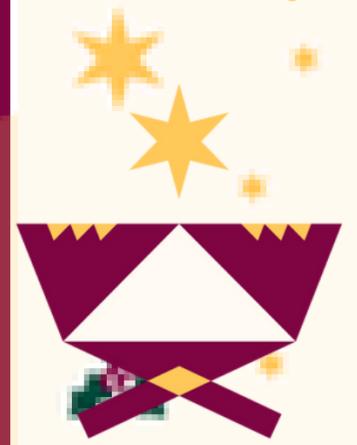
...how does this picture represent trusting?

★ I wonder what helps you to trust in someone or some thing.



Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting

JOY

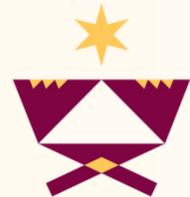


Bible Passage

Matthew 1: 18-24;

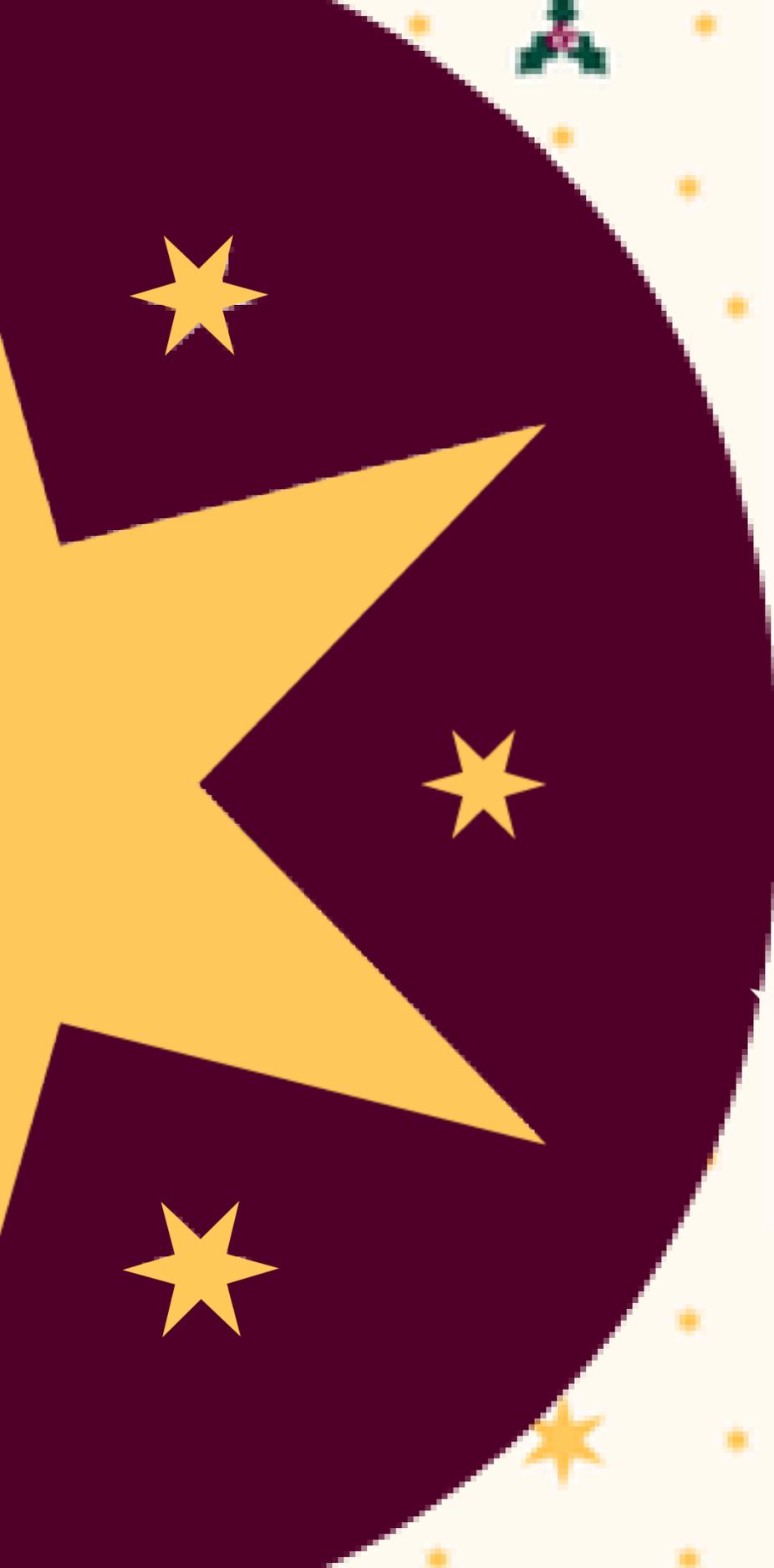
Luke 2: 1-7; 16-20

- ★ What did Joseph dream about?
- ★ How did Mary and Joseph have to trust God?
- ★ Do you think Jesus' birth happened as Mary and Joseph expected or imagined it to?

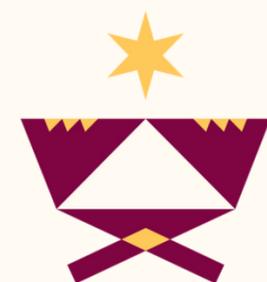


Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting





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Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting



Reflection

- ★ Who or what in your life is trustworthy?
- ★ How can you be someone people can trust or depend on?
- ★ Light an LED candle as a symbol of hope. Trust God with your worries about the world.

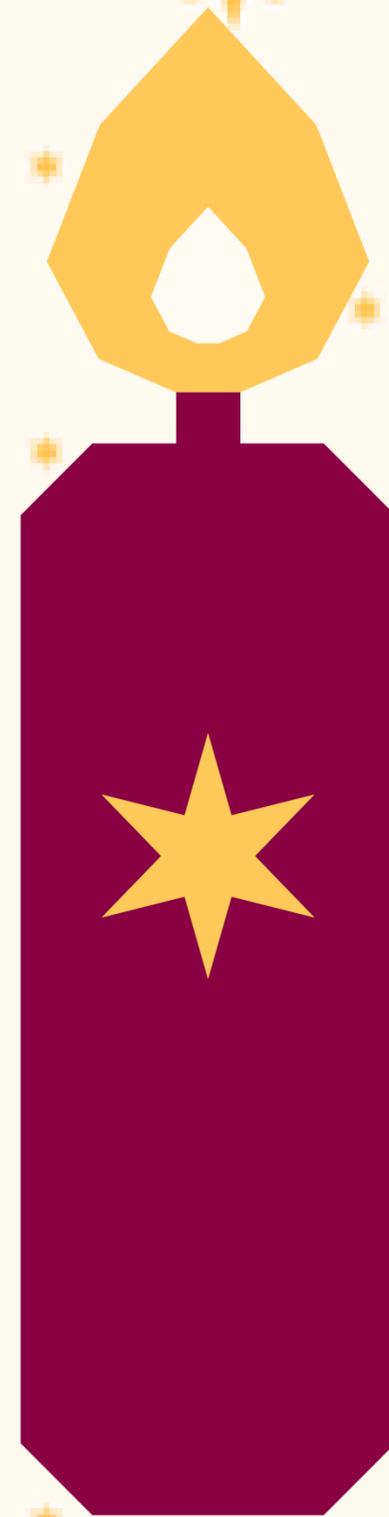
Action

- ★ Create a trust activity or game to help your class mates learn to work together and trust one another.
- ★ Commit to one action that brings hope to others this Christmas. This could be donating to a Foodbank or making Christmas cards for elderly residents.
- ★ Create a lantern decorated with messages hope. You could gift this to someone who is struggling.

Prayer 1

Father God, thank you for Mary and Joseph's example of following and trusting you. Help us to make space in our hearts to trust you when we feel uncertain.

Amen

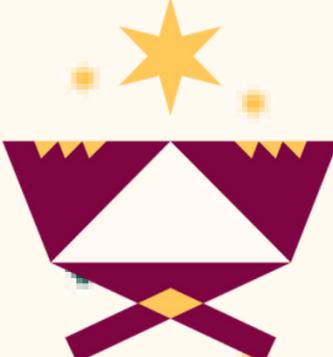


Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting

Prayer 2

Lord, help us to be people that our friends can trust and feel safe with, as we learn and play together.

Amen



Session Two
Mary and Joseph
Joy in Trusting

JOY 

Liturgical Ending

Leader:

May we rejoice in
God's message of joy

Response:

And show that joy in
our lives.

Amen.



**NEXT
WEEK**

Session Three
The Shepherds' Story
Joy in Sharing



Session Three

The Shepherds' Story

Joy in Sharing



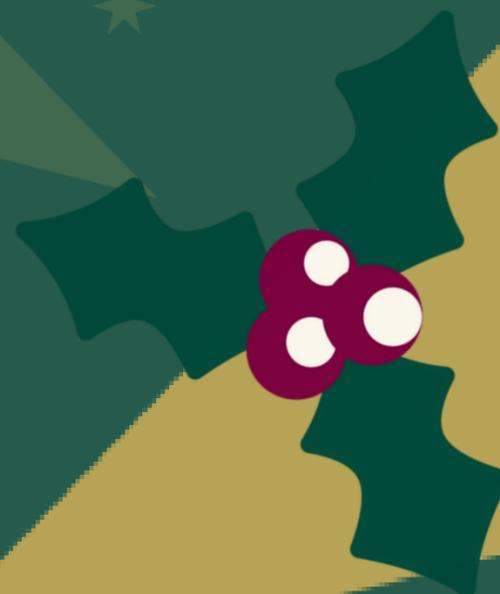
Liturgical Opening

Leader:

The Lord of glory be with you.

Response:

The Lord bless you.



I wonder...

...how does this picture
represent sharing?

★ I wonder when and how
you share good news with
others



Session Three The Shepherds' Story Joy in Sharing

JOY



Bible Passage

Luke 2: 8-20

- ★ Why do you think the shepherd's were chosen to hear the Good News of Jesus first?
- ★ How did they react when seeing Jesus for the first time?
- ★ Why was it important to the shepherds to share with others what they had seen?



Session Three
The Shepherds' Story
Joy in Sharing

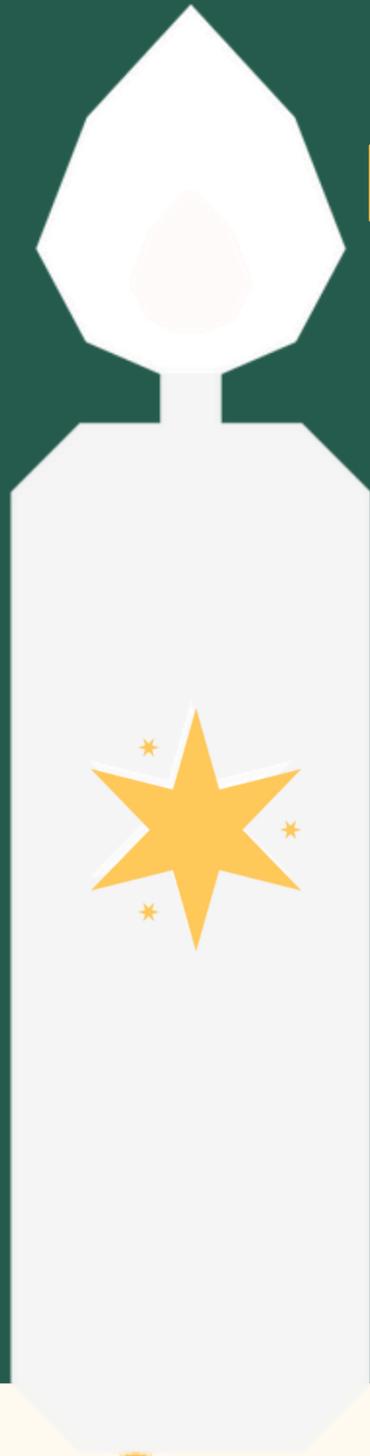




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Session Three
The Shepherds' Story
Joy in Sharing



Reflection

- ★ Share with a friend all the things you are thankful for.
- ★ Think about ways where you can share more with others, showing kindness.
- ★ Share with someone else how you got through a difficult time.

Action

- ★ Share a story/ Bible story/ Bible verse to encourage someone or write encouragement post it notes.
- ★ Share some items you no longer need with a local charity shop.
- ★ Share creatively with others a message of joy for the world.



Prayer 1

Lord Jesus, thank you for the message of the shepherds, that in you we do not need to be afraid, but instead can find strength and courage.

Amen



Session Three
The Shepherds' Story
Joy in Sharing

Prayer 2

Lord God, your angels brought good news to the shepherds telling them of the birth of Jesus. Help us to be messengers of joy in our school, our community and our world today.

Amen



Session Three
The Shepherds' Story
Joy in Sharing



Liturgical Ending

Leader:

May we rejoice in
God's message of joy

Response:

And show that joy in
our lives.

Amen.

**NEXT
WEEK**



Session Four **The Wisemen** Joy in Following

Session Four The Wisemen

Joy in Following



Liturgical Opening

Leader:

The Lord of glory be with you.

Response:

The Lord bless you.



I wonder...

...what does this picture show about Following?

★ I wonder what or who you follow and why.



JOY

Session Four The Wisemen

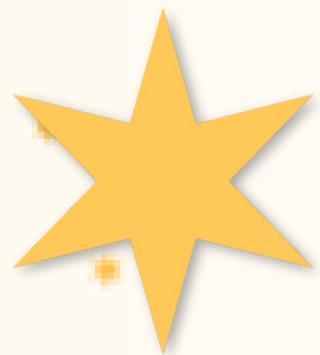
Joy in Following



Bible Passage

Matthew 2: 1-12

- ★ Who did the Wisemen visit first and why?
- ★ What did their gifts show about Jesus?
- ★ How did the wise men follow God's plan?

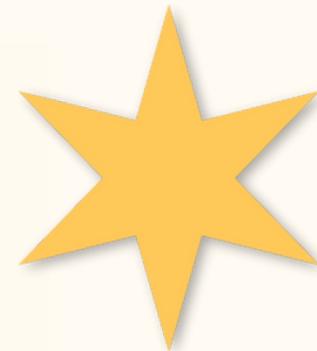


Session Four
The Wisemen
Joy in Following

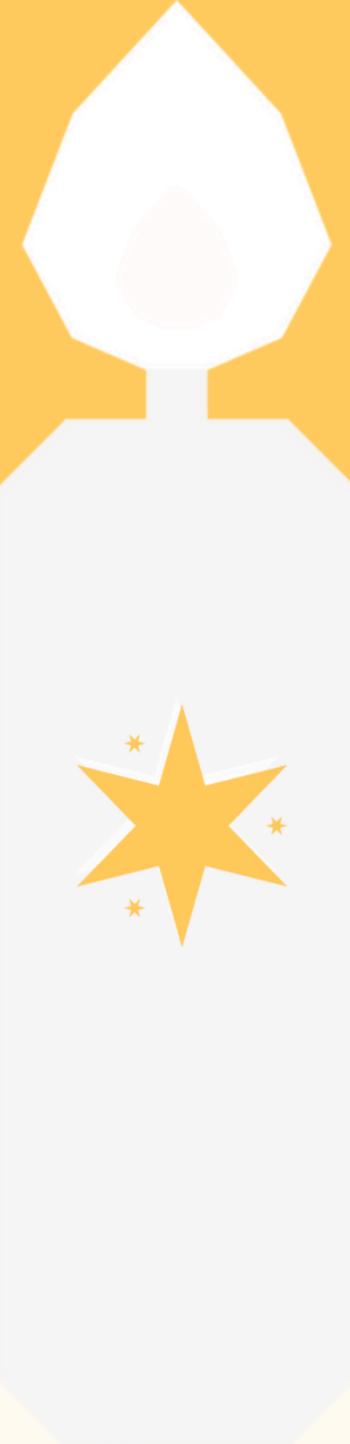




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Session Four
The Wisemen
Joy in Following



Reflection

- ★ Who or what do you follow that is a positive influence on your life?
- ★ How could you use your voice to make a positive change to help others?
- ★ Find out about a young leader who has taken action to help the world. Can you follow their example?



Action

- ★ Follow the work of a local charity. What could you do to support them and bring joy?
 - ★ Write to someone whose example you follow and say thank you.
 - ★ Make a hanging star as a symbol of joy, hope and light for our world.
- 

Prayer 1

Father God, thank you that the wisemen knew that Jesus was special and were prepared to risk their own lives to save him. Help us to follow their example and to make Jesus special in our lives too.

Amen



Session Four
The Wisemen
Joy in Following

Prayer 2

Lord, thank you for the gift of Jesus and the love and light that he brought to the world. Help us to love all other people as you have loved us. Help us to be light in places of darkness and to shine bright for you.

Amen

Session Four
The Wisemen
Joy in Following

Liturgical Ending

Leader:

May we rejoice in
God's message of joy

Response:

And show that joy in
our lives.
Amen.

**THANK
YOU**

**FOR
TAKING
PART**



AYLA

"Be the change"

**Enabling
Courageous
Advocates
In your
school**

**Fully
resourced with
interactive
materials**

**Empowering
pupils through
social action**

**"No matter who you are, everyone can
become a leader." KS2 YOUNG LEADER**