

Theme Verse: Psalm 100:1-2

Theme Song: All the Earth

Story: The Life of David (1 Samuel 16)

Big Idea: We praise God joyfully because His love lasts forever.

## WORSHIP

Time: 5-20 minutes

We're going to start today with a time of worship! God is here with us; we can't see him or touch him, but his Spirit is here. So as we sing together, let's sing to him! Today we're going to talk about praising God joyfully, so let's be happy and celebrate together all the things that God has done for us. Would you stand with me? And let's pray as we get started.

God, we are so happy to be in your presence today! When we worship you, we're reminded just how much you love us. You show us your love every day. Thank you for the way that you love us!

In Jesus' name, amen.

*(Play "All the Earth" on a CD player, computer or other audio device. Lead the kids in singing and model a worshipful heart for them. You may want to expand this time by adding several songs, especially in a children's worship setting. If you have multiple songs, be sure to highlight the theme song, "All the Earth," to draw their attention to the words.)*

## STORY

Time: 15 minutes



### **Display Psalm 100:1-2.**

Take a look at our theme verse for this week. This was a part of the song we sang earlier. Do you remember it?

*(Read aloud or, if working with older kids, ask for a child to volunteer to read the verse aloud.)*

**Younger Kids:** "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth." - Psalm 100:1

**Older Kids:** "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." - Psalm 100:1-2

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Now let's all read it together. Say it with me! *(Lead the children in repeating the verse. For younger children, break the verse up into smaller chunks and have them repeat after you.)*

Great job! Now I'm going to say the verse and you fill in the blanks:

Shout for (joy) to the (Lord), all the (earth).

**Older Kids:** Worship the Lord with (gladness). Come before him with (joyful) songs.

Hmm...are you seeing a pattern here? I think God really wants us to be JOYFUL! In fact, that's our **BIG IDEA** for this week.



**Display the BIG IDEA.**

## BIG IDEA

**Younger Kids:** We praise God joyfully.

**Older Kids:** We praise God joyfully because his love lasts forever.

Who can tell me what "joy" is? *(Allow a few kids to respond.)*

And what are some things that make you joyful? *(Allow a few kids to respond.)*

Today, we're going to hear about the life of David. David had many reasons to be joyful! David was a great king of Israel – maybe the greatest of all! – and he was also the great-great-great-great-great-great-great... *(Go on for a while to emphasize the length of time between David and Jesus, then take a deep breath as if you're out of breath)* grandfather of Jesus.

But before he was a king, David was a shepherd. He took care of his father's sheep. Now maybe that sounds like an easy job, but one thing a shepherd had to do was defend his sheep from wild animals. Let me hear you ROAR like a wild animal! *(Kids respond.)* In fact, the Bible tells us that David had to fight a lion AND a bear to protect his sheep.

He was also a musician. He played an instrument called the lyre, which had strings like a harp or a guitar. And he was super-famous! Turn to your neighbor and tell them your favorite famous musician. *(Kids respond.)*

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David played so well that he got to play for the king of Israel at the time, King Saul! And he loved to worship. He wrote many songs that became a part of the Bible. We call those songs “psalms.” And the Bible tells us that he even danced as he worshipped!

Sounds like David was a pretty interesting guy, right? He was a sheep-watching, lion-taming, lyre-playing, song-writing, toe-tapping king of Israel!

David loved to praise God joyfully because God had taken care of him. In fact, God had protected David in some pretty scary situations. Let me tell you just a few of the things that happened to David. Every time I say something, you say, “God protected David.” Let’s try it!

When a lion and a bear attacked David’s sheep... *(God protected David.)*

When David fought the giant Goliath... *(God protected David.)*

When King Saul tried to kill David... *(God protected David.)*

When Israel was attacked by the Philistines and the Amalekites and the Moabites and the Ammonites... *(God protected David.)*

That’s quite a list, isn’t it? God showed his love for David by protecting him, not just once or twice, but always! David knew he could depend on God because God was always with him. Just like David had protected and cared for his sheep when the lion and the bear attacked, God was protecting and caring for David.

Do you remember our theme verse from Psalm 100? Let’s look at the verse that comes right after it.



***Display Psalm 100:3.***

*(With older kids, invite them to read with you.)*

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” – Psalm 100:3

Wait a second, what was that? Are we a bunch of sheep? Everyone say “baaa” like a sheep! *(Kids respond.)*

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No, of course not! Here's what it really means: just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep, we know that God will take care of us. And that sounds like a great reason to be joyful!

Today we've learned about some of the reasons that David praised God joyfully. But what about you? What are some of the reasons you can praise God joyfully?

*(Allow several kids the opportunity to respond. If the kids are struggling to come up with ideas, prompt them to think about the blessings he has given to us like family and friends, his love for us, and the gift of salvation.)*

Those are all great ideas. God wants us to praise him, and he's given us many reasons to be joyful! Let's say our theme verse together one more time (*for younger kids, ask them to repeat each section of the verse after you*):



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**PRAYER**

**Time:** 4 minutes

Let's bow our heads and close our eyes for a time of prayer. Think about one reason you have to praise God joyfully. Then pray this silently, "God, I thank you for..." and fill in your reason. (*Leave a moment of silence for kids to pray.*)

God, you have given us so many reasons to praise you joyfully. You created us. You gave us friends and families. You showed your love by sending Jesus to forgive our sins. You care for us just like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Thank you for everything you've done. Help us to praise you. And help us to be joyful!

In Jesus' name, amen.

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## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Time: 5-7 minutes

### *For Younger and Older Children*



**Directions:**

Identify key words in the theme verse. Assign them to different individuals or small groups. Let each group decide how to say the word in a way that acts out its meaning. Invite everyone to say the verse with each group acting out their word. Do it several times until the children can say the verse on their own.

**Key words and examples:**

- Shout - Say loudly
- Joy - Say while jumping up and down with joy
- Lord - Point to heaven or use sign language for "Lord"
- Earth - Draw a circle in the air with fingers
- Worship - Bow down
- Gladness - Very big smiles
- Joyful Songs - Sing in a silly, sing-song voice

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### *For Younger Children*

### Shepherds and Sheep

Time: 10 minutes



**Supplies:**

- Chenille sticks
- Marshmallows
- Building blocks



**Directions:**

Have the children create a shepherd's crook using a chenille stick. Scatter large marshmallows on the floor. Create a "pen" out of blocks near the marshmallows. Challenge each child to use their shepherd's crook to capture each sheep that is out of the pen and drag the sheep into the pen.

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**(continued)**

Time each child and tell them they have 1 minute to get as many sheep in the pen because a bear is about to attack, or you can have a teacher get in their way as an “obstacle,” while still allowing the child to be successful in getting the sheep into the pen.

Afterwards talk about how important it was for shepherds to love and protect their sheep. David took this job very seriously, and God wants to take care of us just like that!

***For Younger and Older Children***

**Make Musical Instruments**

Time: 15 minutes



**Supplies:**

- Various craft items that could be used to create a musical instrument
- *Examples:* Kleenex box, rubber bands, stapler, plastic eggs, beans, rice, duct tape or packing tape, plastic spoons, Pringles cans, coffee cans, construction paper, crayons, stickers, glue, stamps, markers, etc.



**Directions:**

Since this lesson focuses on David singing joyful songs to God, give children an opportunity to create a musical instrument of their own. If you have the supplies and helpers available, give the children three or four options of instruments to make. Once the instruments are finished, use them to make music as you listen to the song “All the Earth.”

**Examples of homemade musical instruments:**

- Box guitar made out of Kleenex box & rubber bands stretched across the opening of the box.
- Maracas made out of plastic eggs filled with rice and beans (can tape on two plastic spoons to create a handle if so desired).
- Decorate drums made out of a Pringle’s can, oatmeal tub, coffee can, etc.

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## **Learning About Instruments**

Time: 15 minutes



### **Supplies:**

- Musical instruments
- A person who plays a musical instrument



### **Directions:**

This is a fun time to focus on the instruments that we use to sing praises to God. If you have a supply of instruments like rhythm sticks, sand blocks, triangle, bells, etc., bring them in and let the children use them as they listen to the song “All the Earth.”

You can also have someone talk to the children (possibly a worship leader/musician whom they see up on stage playing an instrument) who plays the guitar, piano, drums or another instrument. Have this musician tell the story of how they learned to play the instrument and how they love to use their talent to sing or play praise music joyfully to the Lord, just like David did.

## ***For Older Children***

## **Sing a New Song**

Time: 15-20 minutes



### **Directions:**

In groups of three or four, have the children write a new song that gives joyful praise to God. It is helpful if they use a familiar tune, such as Happy Birthday or Jesus Loves Me. Let each group share their song with the large group.

You can also have each group write one verse of the song and then put all the verses together to make a complete song. Allow the children to sing the completed song together.