

Christmas Karaoke

Family Devotion

Week 3 – Joy to the World

Read Psalm 98

One of the most well-known Christmas songs, I believe, is *Joy to the World*. But did you know that this song is not based on the birth of Jesus, but actually comes from Psalm 98 found in the Old Testament? Yes...a song that was once actually meant to celebrate the second coming of Jesus turned into one of the most well-known Christmas songs celebrating the birth of Jesus (His first coming)!

If you look at Psalm 98:4-9, you will find that it mentions several things found in the first verse of *Joy to the World*. And the first verse of this song says:

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room. And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing."

In Psalm 98 it talks about shouting for joy to the Lord. And it says, "all the earth." From that comes the title of this song....*Joy to the World*. So how about your family take a second to "shout for joy to the Lord." Make some noise. Be loud. Praise God! And go.....

The whole earth is receiving the King who has come into the world. And what we are to do is prepare room for Him in our heart. So how do we do that? We slow down. We make time to focus on Jesus. We read our Bibles, pray, and worship Him. Christmas time can be very busy, but I challenge you to slow down and make time to worship God.

In other verses of Psalm 98 you find it talking about different parts of creation praising God: the sea, the people, the rivers, the mountains. All of these parts of creation come together to make noise and shout for joy to the Lord...they are singing praises to God for who He is. And that's where the line "and Heaven and nature sing" comes from. All of Heaven and nature are singing and praising God.

So, let's remember to shout for joy to the Lord. Let's remember to slow down and prepare room for Jesus in our hearts. And then let's join in with Heaven and nature and sing our praises to God. Let's praise God for JOY has come to the world!

Almighty God, thank You for Jesus. Help our family to make time for Him and to worship Him. Amen.

Karaoke Time!

Write out the lyrics to this Christmas song on a separate sheet of paper. Then search the internet for your favorite version of this song. **My favorite version for kids of Joy to the World is by the Go Fish Guys.**

Play the song and sing together as a family! Or if your family doesn't want to sing, just listen and enjoy the music.

Prayers & Pics

As you close out your family devotion time, do these two things. First, write down any prayer requests or praises for today. Then pray together as a family for these specific requests. Second, have kids draw

pictures of the Christmas song for the day. Have them draw out what happens in the song.

Family Game

Week 3 – Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Supplies Needed: *Christmas Scavenger Hunt list*

It's time to take a family road trip around town and look for the items on the Christmas Scavenger Hunt list! Your family can choose to drive around looking for these items or you can park at a busy shopping center, mall, or other area and search for the items within that space. Either way is fun! And if you want to make things competitive, you can divide your family and see who can find all the things on the list first!

Family Craft

Week 3 – Joy Magnet

Supplies Needed: *JOY letters, white cardstock, markers or crayons, 3 small magnets*

This JOY magnet is a great way to spread the JOY of Jesus in your home!

Trace or copy the JOY letters onto white cardstock. Have kids decorate each letter how they like. If you have more than 3 kids, then make 2 sets of the letters so each child can have a letter to decorate.

After the letters are finished, attach a magnet to the back of each letter. Then place these letters on your fridge to spell out JOY and remember that Jesus is our JOY and He has come into the world!

Christmas Cookie

Week 3 – Sugar Cookies

1/2 cup butter

3/4 cup sugar

1 egg

1 Tbsp whipping cream

1 tsp pure vanilla extract

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 tsp baking powder

1/4 tsp salt

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine butter and sugar and mix until well blended. Add the egg. Blend in the whipping cream and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, combine together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Pour into other bowl and stir until well blended. Shape the dough into a flat

ball. Wrap ball in parchment paper and chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Roll ball onto a lightly floured cutting board until 1/4" thick. If desired, use cookie cutters to cut into shapes. Place cookie dough shapes onto a parchment-covered cookie sheet (keep 2 " apart). Bake cookies for 10-15 minutes. Cool. Then use frosting and sprinkles to decorate.