CEF Press Good News of Great Joy Lesson adapted for little ones

These suggestions are adapted from the CEFPress.com Christmas Party Kit: Good News oof Great Joy. Purchase the kit through your local CEF director or on-line at CEFPress.org

Decorations: If possible, have a preschool friendly manger scene. A simple box with easter grass and a baby doll wrapped in cloth makes a simple manger scene. I write in large letters the word "Manger" or you could write "Jesus."

Good News Cheer: Today we are going to learn about some very good news. The good news is so good it can give us great joy. So, when I ring this bell we will cheer, "Good News! Great Joy!" Let's practice (ring bell and cheer good news, have helpers to assist children in cheering "Great Joy!"

Class Incentive: Have scented Christmas stickers that children can earn during the club. Reward the stickers after the lesson (to avoid distractions and confusion). You can give child an angel (see heavely host craft activity page 3) that they can decorate with stickers.

Arrival Activity:

Heavenly Host Craft, Children can color the angels, and you can help them fold the angel to make angels. Children can decorate the angels with scented stickers rewarded for good behavior at the end of club. (Make sure all children earn the same number of stickers). See angel pattern in the CEF Press kit. I've also included the pattern with direction for the angel craft using a paper plate instead. This craft suggestion I've provided is from the CEF Press: *Little Ones Can Know God: Through His Son kit*.

Shepherd, Shepherd Game: If you have a large class, you can play Shepherd, Shepherd, your Sheep is gone. This is played like the game "Doggy, Doggy, whose got the bone." Note: With preschool children, they will tell the shepherd who has the sheep! They cannot keep the secret. The child with the sheep behind their back, may show the shepherd they have the sheep. Just encourage them to hide the sheep and keep it a secret but don't get upset if they can't keep the secret!

- The teacher chooses for a volunteer who wants to play the shepherd first, the shepherd sits with his/her back to the class near the teacher.
- The teacher gives a small sheep to one of the children in the class. All the children put their hands behind their back pretending they have the angel, including the child with the angels.
- The kids then chant the *Shepherd Shepherd chant.*
- *Shepherd, Shepherd your sheep is gone….*

- The teacher then asks the child, to turn around and make three guesses who has the sheep.
- If the child guesses right, the child with the sheep, reveals the sheepl. If the child misses after three guesses, the child with the sheep reveals the sheep.
- Play another round with a different child as time permits.

Interactive Games:

Interactive Games: Make several angels using the "Heavenly Host" craft pattern and place the angels around the room. Encourage the children to go find one angel and bring the angel back. Have enough angels for the children to find at least one angel each.

Review Game:

Christmas Match Game: Play the suggested matching game (see pattern) for the review game. As children find a match, ask them if they can remember that part of the story. Don't allow children to keep the match. Just set the matching cards aside.

Memory Verse: John 3:16 A "For God so loved the world."

Intro: Who do you love? The Bible tells us about someone who loves all the people in the world! Even you, me, and your family!

Presentation: Do you know what this book is? It's a Bible! Can you spell Bible? B-I-B-L-E spells Bible! God has a special message for you and me in the Bible. The address for today's message is John 3:16. Open the Bible and allow children to touch the Bible one at a time and say "John 3:16." If you have a large class, you can have helpers and more than one Bible.

(Choose a child to come up and help you read the words from the Bible. Let child point to the words while you say the words for the class. (*You can say the words softly to the child and ask the child to say the words to the class, preschoolers like that*). Let the class repeat back the address.

Explain: This Bible verse tells us that God loves all the people in the world!

Apply: God loves you and me. He shows us His love in many ways. We will learn today a very special way God showed His love.

Repeat: Show hand motions for "God so loved the world." (*God, hold your right hand facing left over your head and bring in downward to your chin*); so loved (*hug yourself*); he world (*make large circle with hands*).

Song: **John 3:16 Memory Verse Song**; Tune: *Mary had a little Lamb*

For God

So loved the world (3x)

For God so loved the world

He gave (make a fist with both hands and have your pointer finger hooked in, reach both fist outwards like giving a gift to someone) His only Son (rock arms like rocking a baby).

Song: JESUS was His Name (Tune: *B-I-N-G-O was his Name*)

Mary had a little one and Jesus was His name O:

J-E-S-U-S (3x)

and Jesus was His name O!

If time permits sing again in a whisper (the baby Jesus may be sleeping)

Review Game and Questions:

Christmas Match Game on Page 2.

Place memory cards on floor or on a pocket chart. (*Pocket charts can be easily made, see instructions below*.)

Children take turns turning two cards over and try to get a match. If the child gets a match, let him/her tell you what part of the Christmas story the picture reminds them of.. help as needed. If the cards match leave them face up and move on to the next child.

Color Page: Use the color page as an additional classroom activity, an activity as you wait for parents to arrive, or a take-home activity. The color page is from a free resource from the CEF Press *Little Ones Can Know God through His Son Activity* Pages.

Instructions for making a Pocket Chart:

1. Purchase some weather-stripping silicone tape. https://tinyurl.com/329zkhuw
2. Purchase a large chart board from a school supply store or colored project board.
3. Measure out four to six horizontal rolls for the “pockets.”
4. Adhere the adhesive insulation tape to the four rolls.
5. Use colored duct tape to make a border around the board.