We are so excited for our new Big Deal, "Joy, Joy, Joy! God Is Always with Me!" This month, we get to keep the focus on Jesus as we teach that Jesus is the greatest hope, the greatest gift, the Son of God, and the Light of the world.

## **December 1: Jesus Is the Greatest Hope**

# Bible Story: The Prophets Told about Jesus (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 11; Micah 5:2)

Throughout the Old Testament, prophets shared special messages from God. Two of these prophets, Isaiah and Micah, both shared about God's promise of a Savior. Preschoolers will learn that they can trust God and have joy in Jesus because God always keeps His promises. This week, point out all the things around you that remind you of Christmas and the joy of Jesus. Talk about how everything from Christmas lights to gifts to baking cookies can bring us joy! Have fun talking about your Christmas memories and make plans to do some family activities that bring your family joy.

#### **December 8: Jesus Is the Greatest Gift**

### Bible Story: Wise Men Visited Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)

This week preschoolers will learn how the wise men visited Jesus after He was born. When the wise men saw a special star and knew that a king had been born, they traveled to find Him and bring gifts. Their joyful response helps us know that Jesus is the greatest gift and the reason we celebrate Christmas. Have fun with your preschoolers by collecting several groups of three similar items in different sizes such as shoes, stuffed animals, or cooking utensils. Work with your preschoolers to put the objects in order from smallest to largest. Talk together about how, even though we get gifts at Christmas, Jesus is bigger and better than any gift. He is the greatest gift!

# December 15: Jesus Is the Son of God Bible Story: Jesus Was Born (Luke 2)

Your preschoolers will learn about the birth of Jesus! Preschoolers will learn how special this is because Jesus is the Son of God and, when we love and follow Him, we can have a friendship with God. This is why we celebrate Christmas! Look through baby pictures with your preschoolers—theirs and yours! Point out facial features and talk about how you can have features that look the same or different than your parents. Then talk about how Jesus is the Son of God and, when we love Jesus, we love God Himself.

## December 22: Jesus Is the Light of the World

## Bible Story: The Light of the World Has Come (John 1:1-18; 8:12-20)

Preschoolers will learn that Jesus is the Light of the world. We will teach preschoolers that Jesus came to be with us, and we don't have to live in darkness. We can follow Jesus—He shines bright enough for everyone to see. Hop in the car and go out as a family to look at Christmas lights or simply turn off the main lights in your home and let the lights of your Christmas tree be the only ones you see. Talk together about how Jesus is the Light of the world and how He is always with us. Because of Jesus, we are never alone.

#### December 29: God Is Always with You

## Bible Story: Jesus Promised the Holy Spirit (John 14–16)

This week is a very special Hooray Day where they will learn the Big Deal, "Hooray! God Is Always with You!" In John 14–16, Jesus promised to send a special Helper—the Holy Spirit. They will learn that God is always them because Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, who leads and guides everyone who follows Him. Provide them with two sheets of paper. Write 2024 on one and 2025 on the other. Invite them to decorate their papers. Use this as an opportunity to talk about how the new year will begin soon. Mention that some things will be the same and some things will be different, just like their pictures, but one thing will always be the same—God is always with us!