



JESUS GIVES  
**JOY!**

Advent Activities for Kids!

# JESUS GIVES JOY!

This Advent activity pack includes instructions and printables for a variety of hands-on learning experiences to help children understand the JOY of Christmas and build anticipation for celebrating Jesus' birth. You can choose the ideas that best fit your teaching situation.

**Key Word:** Joy—gladness and delight deep inside my heart.

**Key Phrase:** Every week we'll have a phrase that goes along with the Advent teaching for the week. This week it's "Jesus gives joy!" You can use this phrase as you lead the related activities and throughout the week to reinforce and remember this truth.

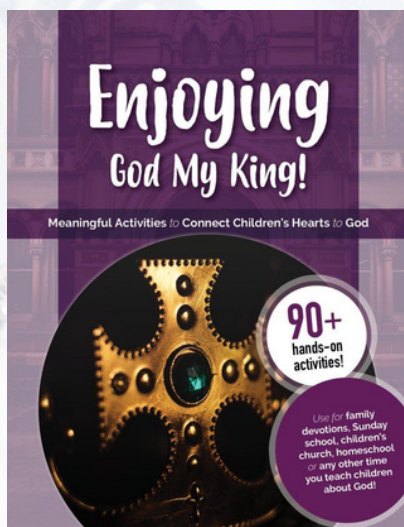
**Key Verse:** Habakkuk 3:18b "I will take joy in the God of my salvation."

**Songs about Joy:** Listen to one or more of these songs during the week as you light the candle and talk about how Jesus gives us joy.

- "Joy to the World"
- "Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven" by Keith & Kristyn Getty
- "Shepherd Dad" by Slugs and Bugs
- "Luke 2:10-11" by Saddleback Kids (Toddler Worship)

\*YouTube rules specify that content on the site should only be accessed for personal, non-commercial use except where the owner has given prior written consent. This means you may use these suggested YouTube music videos with your family, but should ensure you have proper permission from the video owner prior to showing it in your church or other group setting.

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## More Ideas from Enjoying God My King!

The following ideas from this FREE activity guide could be used to help children understand why and how **Jesus gives joy**.

- Two Crowns (pg. 50)
- The Kingdom of Darkness (pg. 59)
- "I'm Happy Today" Action Song Game (pg. 36)

Download a FREE copy at [TruthsumWords.com](http://TruthsumWords.com) or [KidsEnjoyingJesus.com](http://KidsEnjoyingJesus.com). Printed books are available for purchase from Amazon.

## Lesson: Jesus Gives JOY!

**Prepare:** Bible, A Special Baby Coloring Page, coloring supplies

**Say:** Have you ever felt really, really happy? One word for that is joy. Joy is gladness and delight you feel deep down inside. Color this picture of a baby while I tell you about two special babies that brought great JOY. As you listen, smile your biggest smile every time you hear the word "JOY"!

God's people had been through some very hard things, but many of them kept on having hope that God would keep his promise to send the Messiah. Two of those people were Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were very old, and they had never had any children of their own. This made them very sad, but they continued to hope in God's plan to send a Savior.

Zechariah was a priest in God's temple. One day, he had an amazing visitor! (Read Luke 1:11-17.) Everything happened just as God promised! It was a miracle that filled their hearts with JOY! After the baby was born, Zechariah said, "His name is John," just like the angel told him! There was so much JOY in Zechariah's and Elizabeth's hearts as they welcomed little baby John into their family.

John's birth also meant something else—the Messiah would be coming—soon! Baby John would grow up to be a messenger who prepared people to meet the Messiah. The Messiah would bring so much JOY to his people and the whole world. Soon after baby John was born, another very important baby was born—baby Jesus, the Messiah! Jesus' birth was a time of JOY! (Read Luke 2:10-11.) God sent angels to tell the shepherds that they were bringing good news of great JOY to everyone because Jesus was born.

**Do:** Light the candles of hope, peace, and joy as you say, "Jesus brings JOY—JOY that we can be right with God and have our sins forgiven. JOY that we are not alone—he is with us always! JOY that one day, he will take us to be with him forever and everything wrong and sad in this world will be gone forever. Say with me, 'Jesus brings JOY!'"



## Key Word Craft: JOY

**Prepare:** Joy Key Word Craft printable, craft supplies

**Do:** Decorate the word "JOY" while you discuss what it means that Jesus gives joy. Hang it somewhere your family can see it all week.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does "joy" mean?
2. Is it possible to have joy all the time? Why or why not?
3. How does knowing and believing in Jesus give people joy?
4. Does it seem hard to have joy right now in your life? Why or why not?

Let's pray about those things now.



## Key Verse: Habakkuk 3:18b

Habakkuk 3:18b "...I will take joy in the God of my salvation."

**Prepare:** Habakkuk 3:18b Coloring Page, crayons or colored pencils, Bible

**Say:** When Jesus was born, God sent angels to tell shepherds that his birth was good news of great joy! Jesus is the only one who can bring us true joy! We're going to learn a verse that reminds us that Jesus is the very best reason to have joy in our hearts.

**Do:** Read Habakkuk 3:18b from your Bible and from the coloring page. Discuss the questions below to consider the meaning of the verse while you decorate the verse coloring page.

### Discussion Questions:

- Who was Habakkuk and why do you think he wrote this? (*Habakkuk was a prophet who lived during a very difficult and sad time many years before Jesus was born. Many bad things were happening, but he had joy because he trusted God's promise to send a Savior.*)
- What decision did Habakkuk make in this verse? (*To take joy in God even when he was sad, discouraged, and unsure about the future.*)
- What does "the God of my salvation" mean? (*Salvation means being saved or rescued from something. Habakkuk knew that only God could save him from sin. He was finding joy in knowing that he would be saved from sin because God promised to send a Savior.*)



**Do:** Play the Joy, Joy, Joy! Bible Verse Game (below) to repeat the verse and help children remember it in a fun way.

## Joy, Joy, Joy! Game

**Prepare:** dice, jingle bells

**Say:** This verse reminds us we can have joy, even in very difficult times when when we've trusted God's promise to save us from sin. We're going to play a game by ringing jingle bells each time we say the word "joy" while we say this verse together.

**Do:** Let children take turns rolling dice and then leading everyone in saying the verse together, pausing at the word "joy" to repeat it and ring the jingle bell the number of times shown on the rolled dice.

(Example: If the number 5 is showing on the rolled dice, everyone would say "I will take joy, joy, joy, joy, joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:18" with the child jingling the bells each time the word "joy" is said.)



## Key Word Activity: JOY

**Prepare:** pipe cleaners (aka chenille stems), beads, jingle bells, Joy Definition printable

**Do:** Have the children string beads and jingle bells onto pipe cleaners and then bend them into letters to spell the word "joy." While you're playing, review what they have learned about the joy that Jesus gives. Afterward, ring the jingle bells and repeat the Key Phrase ("Jesus gives joy!") together.



## Joy Ornament Craft



**Prepare:** JOY Ornament Craft printable, crayons or colored pencils

**Do:** Using the provided printable, decorate the "joy" ornament and hang them on your Christmas tree (or wherever you want to hang them) as a reminder that Jesus gives joy.

## Jumping for JOY!

**Prepare:** Bible, paper, pencil

**Do:** Make a list of things the individuals in your family or class enjoys (i.e., walking, running, hiking, reading, dinosaurs, painting, talking, watching movies, chocolate, pizza, pumpkins, presents, popcorn, etc.) Read the list out loud and tell the children to "jump for joy!" each time you read something they enjoy.

**Say:** These things bring us a little bit of joy. We enjoy them a lot. But all these things we enjoy come from God. (Read James 1:17.) The greatest gift God gives us is Jesus! He is the one who brings us real joy. He wants us to enjoy him most of all!

**Do:** Close by sharing thoughts about how Jesus brings joy to you and your family. Pray and thank God for the many things you enjoy and especially for Jesus, the source of everlasting joy.



## Joy to the World Game



**Prepare:** map or globe

**Do:** Have everyone look at a world map together as you quote John 3:16 and remind the children Jesus came to bring the JOY of salvation to people all around the world. Explain that many people around the world have still never heard the Good News about Jesus. Give the name of a country and have several children race to find it on the map. Once they find it, have everyone shout, "Jesus gives joy!" and then ask a volunteer to pray a sentence prayer asking God to help people in that country learn about the love and joy of Jesus. Continue finding countries and praying for them as long as time and interest allow.

## Indoor Snowball Fight

**Prepare:** Write questions about Christmas and the joy of Jesus on white pieces of paper and crumple them into snowballs ahead of time.

**Do:** Divide the room in half with one team on each side of the room. Set a timer for two minutes and have each team try to throw as many "snowballs" as possible onto the other team's side of the room. When time runs out, the team with the fewest snowballs on their side of the room wins! They get to uncrumple one snowball and read the question for the other team to answer. Then set the timer and play again!

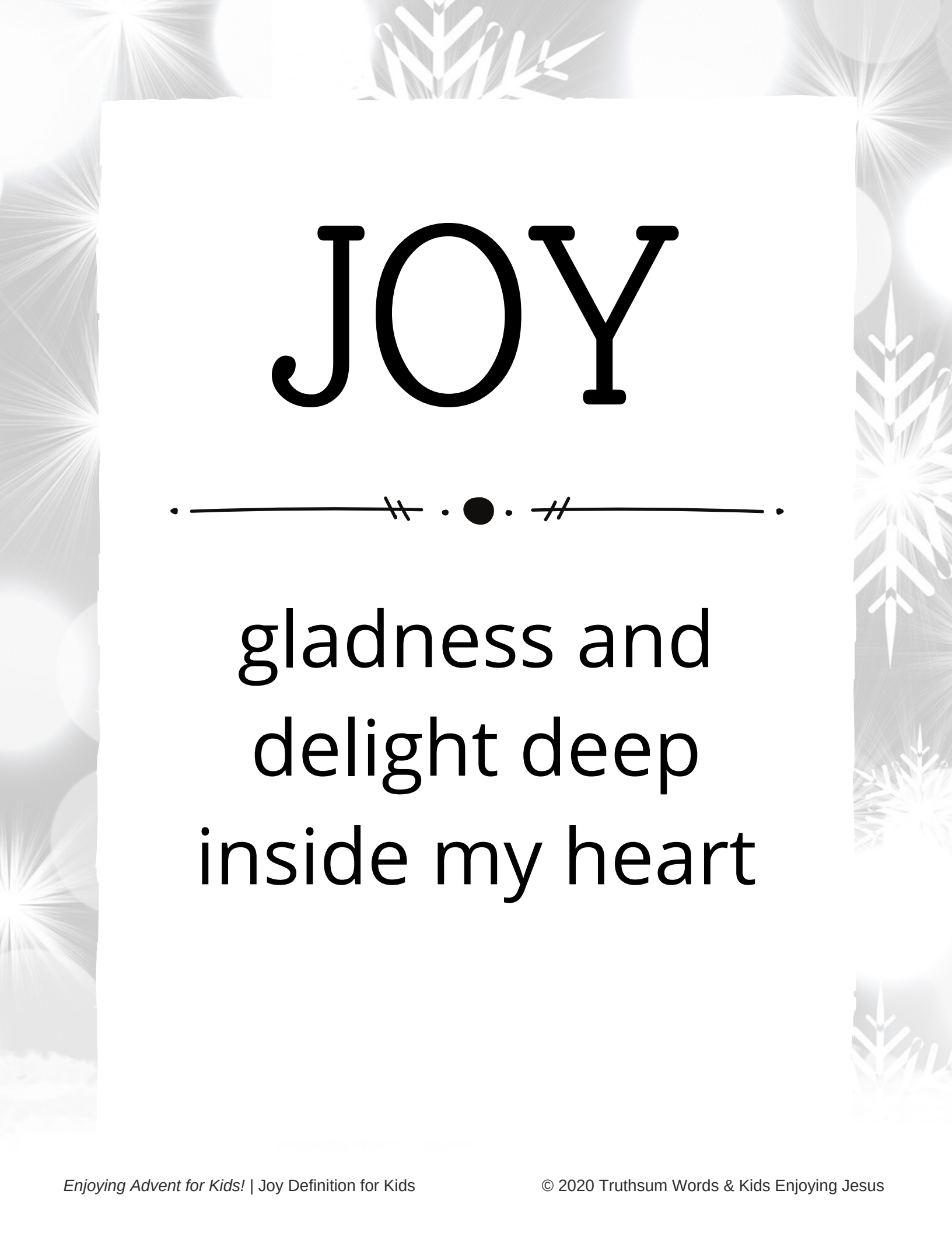
### Discussion Questions:

- What is your favorite thing to do when it snows?
- Do you prefer warmer or cooler weather?
- What's something you enjoy about Christmas?
- Why do we talk about joy at Christmastime?
- What's the difference between enjoying something and having joy?
- Can you think of a song or Bible verse that mentions joy?
- Can you think of ways Jesus brought joy to people in the Bible?
- Can you think of times Jesus had joy even when bad things happened to him?
- How can knowing Jesus help you have joy when bad things happen to you?
- Is it possible to feel sadness and joy at the same time? (Hint: Yes, it's possible to feel sad about bad things while also having joy because you're trusting Jesus will one day get rid of all sadness, sickness, pain, and death forever.)





JESUS GIVES  
**JOY!**

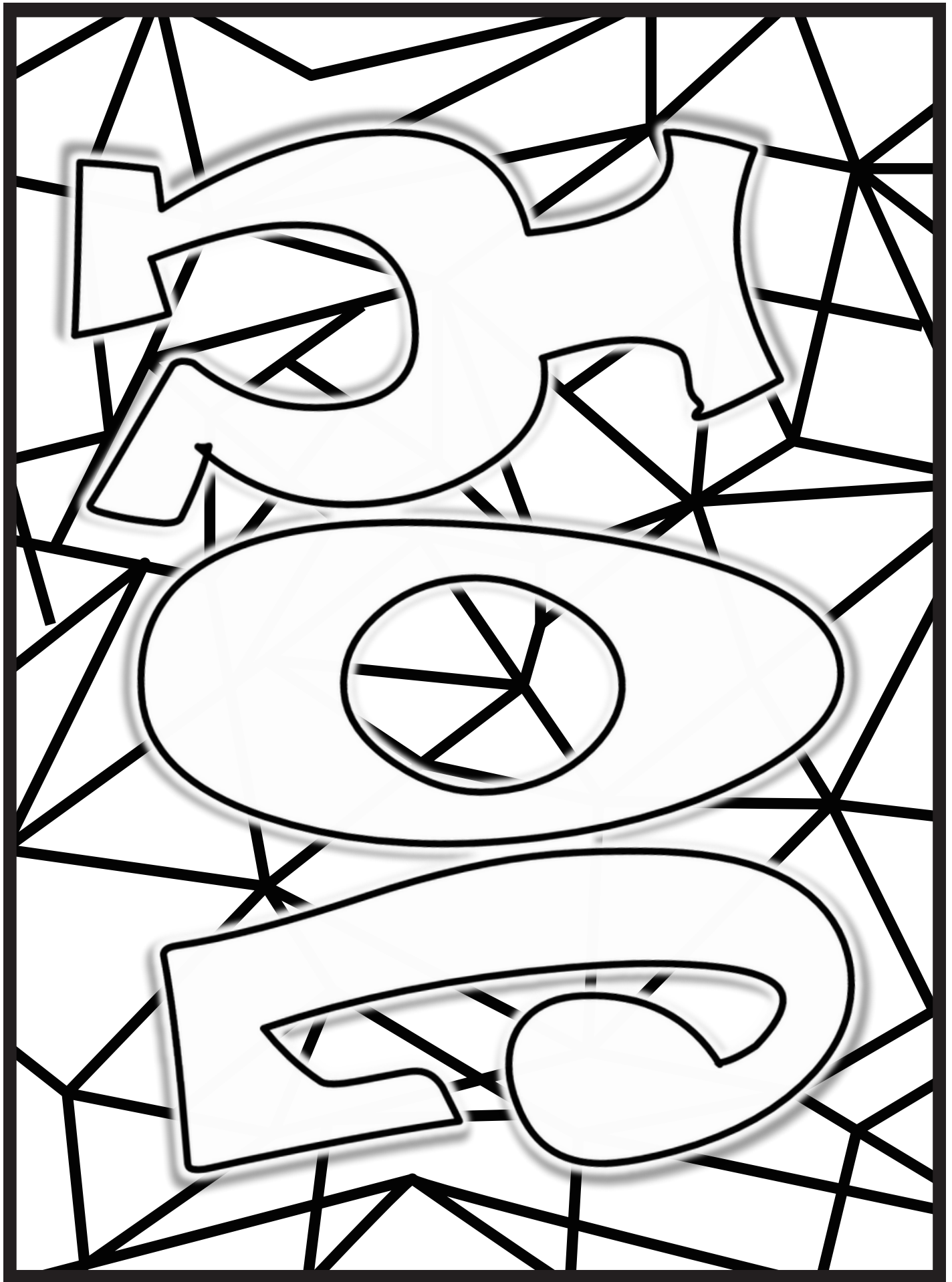


# JOY



gladness and  
delight deep  
inside my heart







...I will take **JOY** in the  
God of my **SALVATION**.

HABAKKUK 3:18b ESV



I will take

**JOY**

in the God of  
my salvation.

HABAKKUK 3:18b ESV

