Little Box of Good News™

Faith Formation for *Families*

Parish Box:

Joy

Little Box of Good News™ | Cajita de Buenas Nuevas™

Today is a good day!

You have chosen to equip your families with fun faith formation that they can do *together.*

This is a supplement to the Joy Box that families receive. Please plan to save and explore one for the church so that you can understand the contents and better support them.

In the box, there are activities to help discover the following:

- What is joy
- Joy within themselves
- Joy in their homes
- Joy in their family
- Joy in community
- Joy in the world

The Little Box of Good News® is a family-centered faith formation program created by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. One goal is to assist parishes with bringing the Good News into homes and equipping parents and caregivers, who are the primary faith-builders in the family. Together, we are helping the next generation realize and embrace their identity as beloved children of God!

Grace Rose
Grant Manager
O: 504-895-6634 Ext. 408
C: 504-331-2693
edola.org
1623 Seventh St.,
New Orleans, LA 70115

Posters Enclosed:

Little Box of Good News®	This poster introduces families to the box and encourages them to subscribe. If your parish wants to sponsor boxes or provide a discount, there is space on the poster to include that information. *Please contact us to help you set it up!* littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org
Little Circle of Good News	Encourage your families to participate in your Little Circle of Good News gatherings or the contact person for your Little Circle. *See "Little Circle" section for more information.*
Little Weekend of Good News	The Little Weekend is a regional gathering. It is a weekend of fun and faith for the whole family, specifically building on what they are learning and doing with the Little Box of Good News®. Create anticipation and excitement for your families to attend! *Please reach out to our team if you do not know when your upcoming Weekend will be!*
Online Resources:	Under "Resources," all the supplemental activities for individual boxes are available to you as well as an option for parishes. You will find digital copies of this document and more!

Links to the website, Little Podcast of Good News, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, can all be found on our linktree: https://linktr.ee/LittleBoxofGoodNews

How are parishes using the Little Box of Good News®?

Supplemental Resource for Families

Parishes are offering a coupon code and encouraging families to engage with the boxes as they see fit at home. These parishes are occasionally using one or two of the activities from the curriculum or additional resources in their congregation.

Primary Faith Formation Program

See the "Curriculum" section to learn how to use the boxes to structure your Sunday school and family formation.

Regular Gatherings of Families

Parishes are holding a Little Circle gathering monthly or quarterly. Some use a suggestion from the "Little Circle" section for an intergenerational learning event. Others are gathering more regularly and having the children do one of the lessons from the "Curriculum" section while the parents discuss deeper one of the topics within the box. In between gatherings, all families are completing the same activity in the box.

Whole Church Intergenerational Gatherings

Parishes are purchasing several subscriptions for their church to use. At one coffee hour per month, they are setting up the same activity on every table and having everyone work together to complete the activity. This is especially helpful in parishes that have only a few families.

Resource for Family-centered Sundays

Parishes are using the "Resources" in this guide to create a family-centered Sunday Eucharist regularly. There are sermon ideas, some additional Sunday School activities and Community Connection options that parishes can choose from to make a Sunday service special for the whole family, utilizing the themes of the Little Box of Good News®.

Should your church provide the boxes to families?

There are many ways to support your families with their Little Box of Good News ®.
Some parishes provide a coupon code for boxes.
Other parishes provide the first box to families and then a coupon code.
Still others provide a box to each family on a regular basis.

Reasons some parishes are providing the boxes:

- Families come to church to get their boxes each quarter.
- You know which families are receiving the boxes and can follow up.
- It is less pressure on the parents and connects them to the church. *Sometimes it is easier for a family to donate a little more to church than to commit to subscribing to something extra.*

How parishes are affording boxes for families:

- Including boxes as part of their faith formation budget. *A 20% discount is offered for sets of 5 or 10 boxes.*
- Having a donation basket for families to donate toward offsetting the cost at their gatherings. *(Monthly meetings – "suggested donation: $10 per family")*
- Allowing a way for all parishioners to donate toward this aspect of the faith formation program.
- Applying for a Little Box Grant – we have special funds to help parishes afford the boxes for their families. *Contact us for more information!!*

We can help!
The Little Box of Good News® team is available to help you figure out what makes the most sense for your congregation. Contact us today to schedule a meeting!
littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org

Using the Little Box of Good News®
as your primary parish faith formation program:

Since this is an intergenerational program, we recommend that you plan to have an intergenerational activity once a month following a liturgy that is focused on youth and families. This would be your Little Circle of Good News gathering. At this liturgy, if you typically have children's church, you would forgo that option and keep everyone in church together for the liturgy. We encourage you to create a sermon that appeals to all ages. (See sermon topics in the "Resource" section if you want to tie it into the Joy Box.)

You would then offer children's church on the other Sundays as is customary in your parish. We understand that many churches share similar challenges around children's church or Sunday school. Therefore, we have formulated a very simple children's church plan that *any volunteer can lead*, using the Joy Box, regardless of whether you have 2 or 12 children present and whether they are 2 or 12 years old. The lessons are designed to take only 20 minutes since that is often how long we have!

Planning Structure:

Once per month:
Youth/Family Centered Liturgy & Sermon
Little Circle of Good News gathering

Remainder of Sundays:
Children's Church/Sunday School
(We have included suggestions for 13 Sundays per box.)

Supplies Needed:
Joy Box for the Parish and Parish Guide (this!)
***Additional Joy Boxes*:**

- For the families – we recommend that each family have a box at home.
- Bulk ordering for parishes is offered with a 20% discount for 10 boxes.
- If you only have one or two families, we encourage you to get a couple of extra boxes for use at the parish events so that all parishioners can join in the activities together.
- ***Please contact us for a personalized plan for your parish!***
- ***Grants are available for parishes who wish to offer this option but do not have the funds. Please contact the Little Box of Good News® team to learn more!***

Weekly suggested plan for Joy Box

Please adapt this and use it as it works best for your parish!
You can stretch/shrink any piece to fit your time frame. As written, it should take about 20 minutes.
Suggested supplies are italicized in red.

Structure of Lessons:

Opening Song	All songs can be found: on the activity page of the LittleBoxofGoodNews.com website, on our YouTube channel (@LittleBoxofGoodNews) and in your booklet (page 39). Follow this QR code for quick access to the YouTube playlist.
Lesson	Follow the instructions on the following pages.
Activity	Follow the instructions on the following pages.
Go Deeper	These directions allow for further exploration or lengthening of the lesson.
Closing Prayer	Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer. (If you run out of pages, you can print more from the Prayer Box Activity Page on the website.)

Week 1 Joy vs. Happiness

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Read the Lamby and Friends story on pages 5-6 in the Joy Booklet.
Ask: *What do you think it means to "consider it all joy, even when life is hard"?*
Allow for answers/discussion.
Ask: *What do you think is the difference between joy and happiness?*
Allow for answers/discussion.
Yes! Happiness is an emotion. It can come and go depending on what is happening around you. Joy is knowing that you are loved no matter what. Even when something bad happens, if you have joy, you know that God will take care of you.

Activity Is it Joy?
Students stand in the middle of the room. As you call out different examples, they need to go to the left side if it is something that brings happiness and the right side if it is something that brings joy. (You can label the two sides of the room – Joy and Happiness.)

Call out the following examples: (answers in **bold**)

*Ice cream (**happiness**)*
*Seeing your friends (**joy**)*
*A new toy (**happiness**)*
*Getting a hug from your parents(**joy**)*
*Listening to music (**happiness**)*
*Being proud that you did something hard (**joy**)*
*Laughing at a joke (**happiness**)*
*Eating your favorite food (**happiness**)*
*Seeing people you love be happy (**joy**)*
*Spending time with a loved one who is sick (**joy**)*
*Winning a prize (**happiness**)*
*Trying your best (**joy**)*
*Forgiving someone (**joy**)*
*Watching a funny video (**happiness**)*
*Knowing God love you no matter what (**joy**)*
*Playing this game (**happiness**)*

Go Deeper Allow the children to take turns thinking of examples that are sources of happiness or joy.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 2 – Fruits of the Spirit

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Read pages 7-8 in your Joy Booklet.
Explain: *Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit living in us. There are others, too: love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

Activity Grow Your Fruit

Explain: *You can't just think – I want a strawberry and it shows up. Someone had to grow it. That's how the fruits of the Spirit are. Today, we are going to demonstrate that.* Ask for one student to stand in the middle of the circle so everyone can help with the actions.

Say	**Do** (other children can take turns)
You need to be planted!	Child stands straight.
We need to make sure that you have strong roots.	
We will plant you in God's love and in our community.	Wrap a blanket around their feet.
What else does a plant need? Water? Yes!	
We will water you with Baptism.	Sprinkle holy water.
A plant needs food. We will feed you with the	
Eucharist and Scriptures.	Hand them a Bible.
What else? A plant needs sunshine! We will give you	Call out affirmations (we love you, you
sunshine through caring for you.	are amazing, you are special, etc.)
Look! Now you are starting to flower!!	Place funny wig or hat on their head.
The next step is for the flowers to turn to fruit.	
Spin around so all your fruit can come out!	Child spins in a circle until all of the
I see love! I see peace! I see patience! I see self-control!	fruits of the Spirit are named.
I see kindness! I see generosity! I see faithfulness!	
I see gentleness! I see joy!	

Go Deeper Repeat with other children as time allows.
Reflect: *I wonder which fruit of the Spirit you like the best?*

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 3 Prep for Little Circle Sunday

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Explain that next week will be a Little Circle Sunday. This means that the focus will be on families and kids participating in the liturgy.
Explain the roles in your church that they can do. Here are some examples, but you will want to specify with your priest what roles the kids can do:

Greeters - hand out the bulletins at the door and welcome people
Readers – read one of the readings or the prayers of the people
Ushers – bring up the gifts of bread and wine
Ushers – collect the offertory and bring it up
Ushers – let people know when it is their turn for communion
Acolytes – serve at the altar

Activity Have the kids choose and practice for their roles for the following week.
Prepare readings and responsibilities needed for the following week.

Go Deeper If you have older kids/teens, have them read through the set of readings and discuss what they would want to say for a sermon. They can present these ideas to the priest.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 4 Little Circle Sunday

No Children's Church or Sunday School.

Have children participate in liturgy.

Give a child-friendly sermon.

Use the Little Box of Good News songs by Fr. Ron Clingenpeel.

Plan a Little Circle of Good News gathering after church. See additional pages (under the Little Circle tab) for suggested topics, ideas and planning guides for your Little Circle.

Week 5 You are the Light

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Read pages 14-15 in your Joy Booklet.
Ask: *What do you think it means to be light in the darkness?*
Allow for answers/discussion.

Activity Luminaries
When it is dark outside, we want to see. We want to have light and to offer light to others. One way people do this, especially around winter holidays, is to create luminaries.

Supplies needed:
lunch-sized paper bags (preferably white)
Scissors or hole punch
Sand or rocks
Votive candles or tea lights (one per child – battery-operated is best)
Extra art supplies (paper, markers, crayons, paint, glitter, etc.).

Directions:
Invite the children to draw stars or other designs on their bag to be cut out.
Older children can cut out (or hole punch) their design. Assist younger children in cutting out their designs.
Children can also trim the top of their bags to be decorative (wavy or zig zag, etc.).
Fill each bag with sand or rocks to provide weight.
Give each child a candle to put in the bottom of the bag.
Set up the bags, light the candles, and turn off the lights. Talk about how they light up the darkness just like we can be light in the world!

Go Deeper Learn about the tradition of luminaria (or farolito) at Christmas that began in New Mexico: https://buildfaith.org/luminarias/

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 6 Surprised by Joy

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Read pages 19-23 in your Joy Booklet.
Ask: Has anyone done this yet with your family?
Today, we are going to make a classroom Joy Station.

Activity Joy Station
Supplies needed from your Joy Box: *Cup of Joy, markers, strips of Paper*
You can also add extra art supplies *paper, markers, crayons, paint, glitter, etc.*
Have the students choose the best location for your Joy Station.
Encourage them to decorate it and add cut papers to add to it.

Ask each child to write or draw a moment of joy from the past week and put it in the cup.
Take turns reading them aloud and guessing who experienced it.
Allow that child to tell the story behind the moment.
Continue to use the Joy Station each week.

Go Deeper Encourage children to complete the "Joy in Your Home" activity and set up their Joy Station in their home if they have not already. Ask them to share about it next week.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 7 Making Confetti

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Explain: *Can anyone remind us what joy is? What can give us joy?*
Allow for answers/discussion.
Yes. Doing things with our loved ones not only makes us happy, but it can give us joy, the deep feeling that we know we are loved.
Ask: *Has anyone done the Joy in Your Family activity at home? It is the one with the confetti or confetti eggs.* (If anyone says yes, ask them to share about it.)
Do you know what is special about that confetti? It is designed to be friendly to the Earth.
Knowing that we are thinking about creation and taking care of the Earth can give us joy, too.

Activity Making Confetti
Since there is only a little confetti in your box, we are going to make more Earth-friendly confetti today!
Steps:

1. Go outside and collect fallen leaves and flower petals from the ground.
2. Back inside, have children use a *hole punch*, *scissors*, or their hands to punch/cut small pieces of the plants.
3. Use *recycled tissue paper* (from the boxes!) and cut similarly to plants.
4. Add *salt* (different size salts will give different effects) – you can also mix food coloring with the salt to make it colorful, but then be sure to dry it out before using it.

Mix all of these ingredients together.
Divide into *small paper bags* to distribute to families or head back outside to throw it on each other – or both!
Reflect: *I wonder what brought you joy in class today?*

Go Deeper Encourage the children to complete the "Joy in Your Family" activity with their families this week. Ask them to share about it next week.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 8 Prep for Little Circle Sunday

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Explain that next week will be a Little Circle Sunday. This means that the focus will be on families and kids participating in the liturgy.
Explain the roles in your church that they can do. Here are some examples, but you will want to specify with your priest what roles the kids can do:

Greeters - hand out the bulletins at the door and welcome people
Readers – read one of the readings or the prayers of the people
Ushers – bring up the gifts of bread and wine
Ushers – collect the offertory and bring it up
Ushers – let people know when it is their turn for communion
Acolytes – serve at the altar

Activity Have the kids choose and practice for their roles for the following week.
Prepare readings and responsibilities needed for the following week.

Go Deeper If you have older kids/teens, have them read through the set of readings and discuss what they would want to say for a sermon. They can present these ideas to the priest.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 9 Little Circle Sunday

No Children's Church or Sunday School.

Have children participate in liturgy.

Give a child-friendly sermon. (See "Sermon ideas" for topics related to the Joy Box.)

Use the Little Box of Good News songs by Fr. Ron Clingenpeel.

Plan a Little Circle of Good News gathering after church. See additional pages (under the Little Circle tab) for suggested topics, ideas and planning guides for your Little Circle.

Week 10 Sharing Our Burdens

Opening Song

Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson

Read pages 29-30 in the Joy Booklet.

Ask: *What does it mean to share someone else's joy? What does it mean to share their sadness?*

Ask children for examples from their own lives.

Activity

Sharing our burdens

Explain: *We are going to do an experiment to understand why God asks us to share our joys and sadness with each other.*

Prepare ahead of time:

Bag of rocks (or individual items that are heavy)

Bag of tissue paper, feathers or something else very light – make a hole in the bottom of the bag so that the light items fall out

Give one child the bag of rocks. (It should be too heavy for them to carry.)

Give another child the bag of feathers.

Instruct: *Please carry your bag across the room. Everything in the bag needs to make it across.*

Say: *You may ask for help from others if you want.*

Allow the children work together to get all of the rocks and feathers across the room with minimal interference from adults.

Ask: *I wonder what the rocks are like? I wonder what the feathers are like? I wonder if it was easier to do it alone or with help?*

Provide space for the children to reflect on the exercise.

Repeat if they request and time allows.

Go Deeper

Ask the children to name people in the congregation who might be carrying sadness or joy. Write notes or draw pictures to those people to join in their joy or sadness.

Closing Prayer

Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 11 Joy Hunt

Opening Song

Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson

Read pages 34-35 in the Joy Booklet.

Explain: *The whole creation can experience God's joy just in being alive and existing. When we notice the beautiful creation around us, we are sharing in that joy too!*

Activity

Going on a Joy Hunt

Explain: *We are going to go outside and hunt for joy in creation.*
We are going to follow our wonder while we are outside. I wonder what senses you would like to use?

Allow for seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling (not tasting!).

Take the children outside.

Follow their wonder and encourage their observations.

After an appropriate amount of time, return to the classroom.

Discuss as a group:
I wonder where you saw God's joy?
I wonder if anyone saw some sadness in nature?
I wonder what you might notice next time you go outside?

Go Deeper

Encourage children to complete the "Joy in the World" activity with their family.

Closing Prayer

Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 12 Prep for Little Circle Sunday

Opening Song Choose a song from the Little Box of Good News YouTube channel:

Lesson Explain that next week will be a Little Circle Sunday. This means that the focus will be on families and kids participating in the liturgy.
Explain the roles in your church that they can do. Here are some examples, but you will want to specify with your priest what roles the kids can do:

Greeters - hand out the bulletins at the door and welcome people
Readers – read one of the readings or the prayers of the people
Ushers – bring up the gifts of bread and wine
Ushers – collect the offertory and bring it up
Ushers – let people know when it is their turn for communion
Acolytes – serve at the altar

Activity Have the kids choose and practice for their roles for the following week.
Prepare readings and responsibilities needed for the following week.

Go Deeper If you have older kids/teens, have them read through the set of readings and discuss what they would want to say for a sermon. They can present these ideas to the priest.

Closing Prayer Use the Family Prayer tear pad from the Prayer Box to create a prayer together. Have a child read it as the closing prayer.

Week 13 Little Circle Sunday

No Children's Church or Sunday School.

Have children participate in liturgy.

Give a child-friendly sermon.

Use the Little Box of Good News songs by Fr. Ron Clingenpeel.

Plan a Little Circle of Good News gathering after church. See additional pages (under the Little Circle tab) for suggested topics, ideas and planning guides for your Little Circle.

What is a Little Circle of Good News?

A Little Circle of Good News is a gathering of families who all receive and are using the Little Box of Good News®. It helps families connect with each other and their local Episcopal Church.

Are you already registered as a Little Circle of Good News?

Use the included poster to share your upcoming gatherings.

Be sure to let us know if you have any updates to your listing (or if you do not see it on our website!). You can reach us at littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org.

Parishes using Little Box of Good News® as your primary faith formation:

Little Circle Sundays are written into the curriculum once a month as an intergenerational experience for your whole congregation. Please let us know if you need any assistance in getting these started.

Check the website map to make sure that your parish is listed!

Are you ready to start a Little Circle of Good News?

To host a Little Circle of Good News, a church needs:

- Parish Support
    - Subscribe to get a Little Box of Good News parish version.
      This will include the same elements as the family version, but with additional resources for you as a church.
    - Include the Little Circle of Good News as one of your parish ministries.
    - Include in updates and announcements
    - Provide space for gatherings (and food, if possible)

- Priest Support
    - The parish priest encourages families and joins them for gatherings when possible.
    - Be aware of the contents of each box, paying particular attention to the community aspect. This is the piece that families will bring back into the parish.

- Host Family
    - This family, who receives the box themselves, is willing to coordinate monthly get-togethers of families involved.
    - This is the go-to person when a new family wants to join.
    - This role can rotate among families as the Circle develops.

- Gatherings
    - If you are using the Little Box of Good News® as your primary faith formation program, these gatherings are integrated into the curriculum once a month.
    - Monthly or quarterly meetings of families receiving the Little Box of Good News.
    - This time of fellowship and community has no set script or rules. Families may want to discuss an element of the box or share about their experiences. However, gathering for a meal and play is just as important!
    - New families subscribing to the box should be welcomed! (If the circle feels like it is getting too big for one gathering space, then feel free to break into smaller groups.)
    - These can take place at the parish, at a park, at a family's home, or really anywhere the group wants to meet.

Our team is happy to help your church get started! Please reach out to us at littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org.

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Ideas

You can choose one of these formats for your monthly gathering as a whole community (or create your own idea)!

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Ideas

(individual planning guides follow this summary)

Shine Out Party	Host a shine out party where everyone can express on the outside how they feel on the inside with the light of Christ. Inspired by pages 18 and 27 of the booklet, get creative! Use the glitter, have a confetti egg station, etc. If you host it at night, you can make it a glow party. Let your imagination flow!
Prayer Partners	Host a time for caregivers to get together while the children play or do another activity. Using the Joy in Your Community scripture (Romans 12:15), have a sharing time where parents can share their joys and challenges with each other. Allow for the adults to choose prayer partners who will pray for each other's needs throughout the month. This can be an ongoing feature of your Little Circle.
Going Deeper Dinner	Host a dinner, potluck, or coffee hour where families can share about what they discovered when they did the "Going Deeper" sections of the booklet.
Workshopping Wonder	Have a time for parents to get together while the children play. Encourage parents to share the wonder questions and responses from their children and assist each other with tricky questions.
Celebrating Seasons	The Joy in the World activity teaches us that all of creation expresses God's joy. Host an evening around a firepit or bonfire where families can enjoy the night sky and nighttime sights and sounds. Share hotdogs, marshmallows or smores and talk about the joy found in creation in the changing of the seasons.

Remember, this is YOUR parish's little circle. There is no right or wrong way to gather!

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Idea

Shine Out Party

Host a shine out party where everyone can express on the outside how they feel on the inside with the light of Christ. Inspired by pages 18 and 27 of the booklet, get creative! Use the glitter, have a confetti egg station, etc. If you host it at night, you can make it a glow party. Let your imagination flow!

Action Plan:

Date for Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

Supplies Needed: _____

_____

_____

Who will get supplies: _____

Who will lead activity: _____

What refreshments will parish provide? _____

Who will provide them: _____

Who will clean up: _____

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Idea

Prayer Partners

Host a time for caregivers to get together while the children play or do another activity. Using the Joy in Your Community scripture (Romans 12:15), have a sharing time where parents can share their joys and challenges with each other. Allow for the adults to choose prayer partners who will pray for each other's needs throughout the month. This can be an ongoing feature of your Little Circle.

Action Plan:

Date for Gathering: _____

Location for adults: _____

Who will lead adults: _____

Supplies Needed: _____

Who will get supplies: _____

Locations for children: _____

Who will lead children: _____

Supplies Needed: _____

Who will get supplies: _____

What refreshments will parish provide? _____

Who will provide them: _____

Who will clean up: _____

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Idea

Going Deeper Dinner Host a dinner, potluck or coffee hour where families can share about what they discovered when they did the "Going Deeper" sections of the booklet.

Action Plan:

Date for Gathering: _____

Location for Gathering: _____

Food provided by: _____

Who will organize/order: _____

Will you discuss by table or whole group? _____

Who will lead the discussion: _____

How will you engage kids: _____

There are several great videos and resources in the online activity page for Joy.

Which resources will you share? _____

Who will clean up: _____

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Idea

Workshopping Wonder Have a time for parents to get together while the children play. Encourage parents to share the wonder questions and responses from their children and assist each other with tricky questions.

Action Plan:

Date for Gathering: _____

Location for Gathering: _____

Food provided by: _____

Who will organize/order: _____

Will you discuss by table or whole group? _____

Who will lead the discussion: _____

How will you engage kids: _____

Who will clean up: _____

Little Circle of Good News Gathering Idea

Celebrating Seasons

The Joy in the World activity teaches us that all of creation expresses God's joy. Host an evening around a firepit or bonfire where families can enjoy the night sky and nighttime sights and sounds. Share hotdogs, marshmallows or smores and talk about the joy found in creation in the changing of the seasons.

Action Plan:

Date for Event: _____

Location for Gathering: _____

Food provided by: _____

Who will organize/order: _____

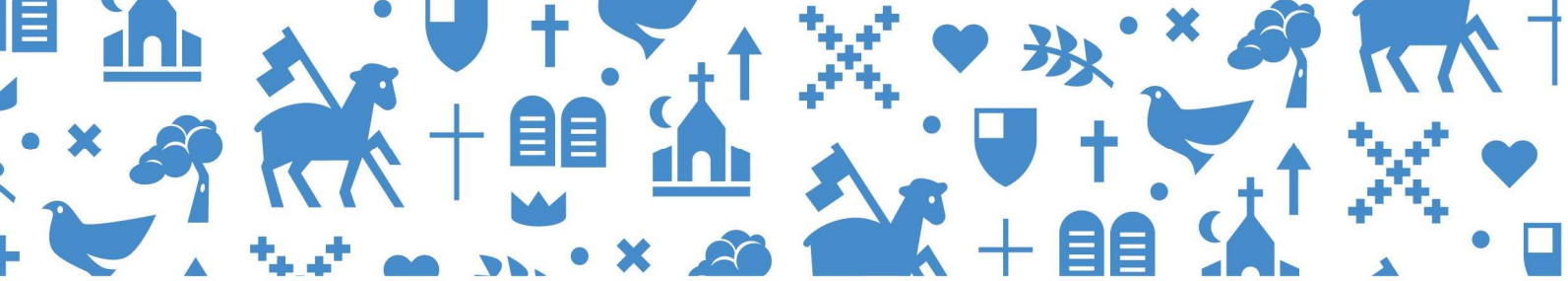
Who will tend the fire: _____

Who will lead activity: _____

_____

_____

Who will clean up: _____



Little Box of Good News™ | Cajita de Buenas Nuevas™

Sermon Ideas:

Sharing one another's joys and sorrows.

Joy as a fruit of the Spirit is different than happiness.

Earth expressing God's joy through creation.

Music:

We encourage churches to use the Little Box of Good News® music!
For licensing permissions, contact Bishopsmusic, at admin@bishopsmusic.net. Copyright ©Ronald Clingenpeel, ASCAP 2026. *Fr. Ron has already assured us that all parishes will be given permission, but please still contact him!*

Bulletin Insert:

Did you know that our diocese has a tool to help you have faith conversations as a family? All families are invited to receive the Little Box of Good News®! To subscribe or purchase a box, go to littleboxofgoodnews.com. Our parish discount code is _____.
For all of the Little Box of Good News® resources
(Website, Podcast, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube) visit:

Please reach out to us at littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org to prepay for a discount code for families!
Weekly bulletin tips for families can be copied from our email newsletter!

Additional Ideas and Resources for your Community

Community Connection:

Board of Joy

Families each have a cup of joy to record moments during their week when they were surprised by joy. You can set up a parish board of joy to do the same. Encourage parishioners to write down ways that they were surprised by joy either at home or at church. Post these in a space where everyone can see and participate.

Going Deeper as a Community:

Celebrating Together

The Little Circle gathering of a Shine Out party can be one that invites the whole congregation to participate. How is each person shining the light of Christ in the world? Use the glitter, confetti eggs, and add glow sticks and other fun ways to let everyone shine together!

Need help? Contact us!

Grace Rose

grose@edola.org

- Curriculum development
- Designing your program
- Adapting to your space
- Little Circle of Good News

Administrative Team

littleboxofgoodnews@edola.org

- Ordering, Payments & Coupon Codes
- Scheduling a visit
- Website issues

Lauren Dunn

ldunn@edola.org

- Podcast ideas
- Faith formation for middle and high schoolers
- Youth Ministry & Young Adult Ministry
- Safe Environment

Social Media

tech@edola.org

- Social Media