**Week 3 Theme: Joy**

Movie: Frosty the Snowman

Bible Verse: Luke 1:46-47 – Mary said, “With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my Savior.”

Mary has just learned that she is going to be the mother of Jesus, and she is overcome with joy. Joy is more than happiness. It goes deeper. When we’re happy, we smile with our faces. When we have joy, we smile with our hearts. Because joy runs so deep, it helps us get through the ups and downs of life. Let’s look at some examples of real joy in Frosty the Snowman.

Talking Points:

• At the beginning, point out how the children find joy in simplicity – the wonder of the first snow.

• As the children build the snowman, point out how they are experiencing the joy of working together.

• When Frosty comes to life, the first thing he says is Happy Birthday! Frosty models for all of us the joy of being alive!

• When Frosty first says, “Happy Birthday,” this could be an opportunity to pause the movie and read: Job 33:4 – The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the almighty gives me life.

• Before continuing the movie, say – One of the greatest sources of joy is the joy that comes from reaching out to help others. See how many ways helping others is shown in the movie. [Continue watching to the end.]

After-Movie Discussion:

• What were some examples of characters reaching out to help others? [Allow children to respond. Below are a few examples.]

• Hocus Pocus, the rabbit, brings the magic hat back to the children.

• The children help Frosty get on the train so he can go to the North Pole.

• Frosty and Hocus Pocus take care of Karen when she’s shivering in the refrigerated boxcar.

• The woodland animals build a fire for Karen.

• Santa ensures that Frosty stays alive by not allowing Professor Hinkle, the magician, to bully Karen and Frosty.

Reaching out and caring for (and about) others is one of the best ways to find joy. In fact, the one character who continues to think only about himself until the end is Professor Hinkle. And he is clearly the least joyous character in the movie. When was a time you did something for someone else? How did that make you feel?

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of joy –

For the joy of simplicity,

For the joy of working together,

For the joy of helping others,

For the joy of being alive.

Amen.