



WEEK TWO – JUNE 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Walking on Sunshine* • Acts 5:17–42

Bottom Line: *Choose joy no matter what's going on.*

Memory Verse: *“The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.” Galatians 5:22–23a, NIV*

Life App: *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Next, we head to Acts 5:17–42 where Luke records the trouble that Jesus' disciples faced when they started spreading the message of Jesus. No matter what happened to them, the Holy Spirit gave them what they needed to find joy, even when it was difficult.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper; Pencil

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Give each kid a piece of paper and pencil.
- Ask them to draw a horizontal line to divide the paper in half.
- On the top half, instruct them write one “high” (awesome thing) that happened this week.
- On the bottom half, instruct them to write one “low” (not-so-awesome thing) that happened this week.
- When finished, let kids share what they’ve written.

2. Choose Your Own Ending

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Papers from Early Arriver; markers/crayons

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to choose either their “high” or “low” and think of a crazy alternate ending. This can be as outrageous or as normal as they choose.
- Instruct students to flip their paper over and write a story based off of their “high” or “low” with a different ending.
- Give suggestions for writing:
 - Journal or paragraph form
 - Graphic novel with illustrations
 - Comic book style: divide the page into several boxes to create the comic strip look
- Give the kids a few minutes to write and then share their endings with the group.

What You Say:

“Some of you chose to write about the awesome thing and some of you chose to write about your not-so-awesome thing from this week. [Transition] Today we’ll hear a TRUE story

from the Bible about a situation that was DEFINITELY not awesome, but God turned it into something amazing.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Choose joy no matter what’s going on. From not making the team to struggling in a class at school, kids of all ages struggle with what it means to have joy when life is hard. Through this lesson, we pray they start to discover what God can do in them to help them choose joy.*

SMALL GROUP

1. The Apostles’ Joy

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Bible, prepared “Paper Plate Emojis” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Help kids get into teams of three. Give each group a set of “Paper Plate Emojis.”
- Guide teams to set the plates on the floor where each team member can reach them.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked.
- Read the paraphrase of the story below.
- Pause after each segment, and guide kids to tap the emoji that describes how the people may have felt.
 - After God sent the Holy Spirit, His followers, like Peter and John, found new power to share the good news about Jesus everywhere they went. They encouraged each other and cared for people who were sick and hurting. God even performed miracles through His Holy Spirit.
 - One day, outside the temple, Peter healed a man who couldn’t walk. The religious leaders weren’t happy. They taught people to follow God by obeying lots of rules, but the apostles were teaching a new way. People listened, and many were becoming Christians.
 - So the leaders arrested Peter and John, but they finally let them go with a warning to never speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.
 - But Peter and the apostles obeyed God and not the religious leaders. As a result, many people became believers.

- When the religious leaders saw that people were following the teachings of Jesus, they had Peter and his friends arrested and thrown into prison.
- But an angel appeared, opened the doors of the jail, brought them out, and told them to keep telling people about Jesus.
- Early the next morning, the apostles returned to the temple courtyard and shared the news of Jesus with great joy.

What You Say:

“Even when Jesus’ friends were being put in jail and being made fun of, they had joy! They had joy because they knew something very important. They knew that Jesus died on a cross and that three days later He came back from the dead. And they knew that Jesus did that for EVERYONE.

*“And you know what? You’re one of the EVERYONES! When Jesus died and came back to life, He did it for you, too, because He loves you! And because of that, you can be joyful, too. So remember, **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on.**”*

2. Line Up

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Phrases” Activity Page, and tape

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to look up Galatians 5:22–23a using the navigation tips from Week One, and review it together.
- Instruct the students to line up shoulder to shoulder.
- Tape a memory verse phrase from the Activity Page onto each child’s back. Don’t allow kids to see the phrase you’ve chosen for them.
- Kids must work together to get themselves in verse order, lined up shoulder to shoulder.
- When they think they’ve arranged themselves correctly, check their work by reading the verse aloud.

What You Say:

“If a pear tree produces pears and an apple tree produces apples, what ‘fruit’ does this verse tell us that the Holy Spirit will produce in us? (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) Which of these fruits are we talking about today? (Pause.) How can you have joy even when things aren’t awesome? (Pause.) Who can you call on to help you? (Pause.)

*“Remember, we’re learning all month long that when we trust Jesus as Savior, we have the Holy Spirit to help us. And God’s Spirit will produce the fruit of love, joy, and peace and all the wonderful things listed in this verse. We don’t have to pretend to be happy using our own strength. God is with us and He will help us to **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index Cards; pencils

What You Do:

- Allow kids to choose a partner. Give each child an index card and a pencil.
- Encourage kids to write down something they need prayer for this week.
- Let the kids exchange cards and pray for each other either silently or out loud.
- Encourage the kids to take the cards home to pray for each other this week.
- Close your time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Heavenly Father, thanks for loving us so much. You are a great big God, and you already know what’s on our hearts and what’s written on these cards. In each of these situations, help us to **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on.** We love You so much. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share their high/low stories from earlier and talk about how through the Holy Spirit we can **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on.**