



WEEK TWO – JUNE 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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; markers or crayons

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
- Invite kids to share one good thing and one not-so-good thing that happened during their week.
- Ask them to draw pictures that show how they felt.

2. Emoji Code

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Emoji Code” cards (Activity Pages)

What You Do:

- Show kids an “Emoji Code” card.
- Pause and give kids a chance to solve the code.
- Guide kids to place their finger on their nose (or make another discreet sign) when they think they know the answer.
- Call on a volunteer to answer.
- Continue with the remaining cards, ending with the “Choose Joy” card.
- Variation: (This is a great option after you’ve gone through most of the cards together as a group.) Direct kids to sit in a circle. Guide each child to hold their hands above their head as you give them a card. Kids hold the cards above their heads while you call out the ANSWERS to the codes. Kids look around and identify the child with each answer. Hold the “Choose Joy” card in reserve, inviting kids to “decode” it at the end of the game.

What You Say:

If kids guess “choose joy:” [Transition] “In our Bible story today we’ll hear about some people who chose joy even when it was difficult. Let’s go learn more.”

If kids don’t guess “choose joy:” [Transition] “Let’s go to Large Group and get some clues that’ll help us solve the code.”

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. Choose Joy

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Hula Hoops

What You Do:

- Set the hoops around your circle, spacing them as far apart as possible.
- At your signal, lead kids to mingle and each move as the video game character of their choice.
- Call out the verse (Galatians 5:22–23a), word by word. Be sure to vary your pace and timing to keep interest high.
- When you say the word “joy,” kids run to a hoop and freeze until you resume reciting the verse.
- Remove one hula-hoop after each round.
- End by guiding kids to say the verse with you.

What You Say:

“When you choose to believe in Jesus and follow Him, God gives you His Holy Spirit to live inside you. The fruit of the Spirit is what God does in us and through us that shows others who He is and what He’s like. It’s loving others even when they’re unkind or mean to us, and it’s choosing joy even when we’re sad or confused.

*“We can choose joy because we can choose to think about how much Jesus loves us. We can remember that He died on a cross and came back to life three days later! So if you’re ever sad or lonely or confused, remember that you can always choose joy. So remember: **[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: Prepared sticky notes; raisins; clear cup or glass; Lacroix

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a STEM object lesson that'll have them (and some raisins) “dancing” for joy!
- Put the “us” sticky note on the container of raisins.
- Invite each child to drop a raisin into the cup.
- Finish the activity with the conversation and instructions below.

What You Say:

“Sometimes things happen in our lives that leave us feeling sad or confused or lonely or even angry. When those things happen, we can choose to base how we feel on what happens to us. (Put the ‘joy’ sticky note on the water container.) Or we can CHOOSE joy by thinking about good things, like how good God is or how much Jesus loves us. (Pour the carbonated water into the cup and wait for the raisins to start rising to the surface.) God can help us have joy even when we’re not happy and even when things aren’t going the way we want. No matter what’s happening, we can choose joy because we can choose to think about God’s love and goodness. So remember: [Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on. Let’s pray.”

(Lead kids in prayer, thanking God that His Holy Spirit gives us the power to [Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on. Ask God to help both you and the kids choose joy this week.)

How does it work? Raisins have a higher density than water, so initially they stay at the bottom of the cup. But when the bubbles of carbon dioxide in the water attach to the rough surface of the raisins, they act like little life jackets that lift the raisins to the surface. When the raisins reach the surface, the bubbles pop, and the raisins sink.

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to tell parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what’s going on.