



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, pray that you would have amazing conversations with your kids about what it means to have joy no matter what our circumstances. Ask God for sensitivity to become aware of kids who may be going through difficulties that may make it hard for them to have joy and for wisdom to know what to do.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, large box full of summer themed items or pictures of the items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Direct kids to sit in a circle.
- Take turns letting kids stick their hand in the box without looking and pull out an item.
- They will then answer an ice breaker question from the following list, depending on which item they grab:
 - Sunglasses: What is a movie you've watched before that you wish you had never seen?
 - Sidewalk chalk: What is your favorite creative thing to do?
 - Sunscreen: What would you do if you could be invisible for a day?
 - Flip Flop: Do you prefer bare feet in the summer or shoes all the time?
 - Ice Cream Scoop: If you were an ice cream flavor, what would you be?
 - Goggles: If you could choose one famous person, and see where they live, who would you choose?
 - Water bottle: Do you prefer the pool or the beach?
 - Small bucket: Tell us about one thing that is on your bucket list (or one big thing that you really want to do someday).
 - Hat: If you could dye your hair any color, what color would you choose?
 - Toy fish (Any stuffed sea animal would work): If you turn into any animal what would you choose to be?
- Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to choose an item and answer a question.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are things that bring you joy?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

MONTHLY 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

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pool noodles, beach ball, prepared "Joy Scenarios" Activity Page, bowl, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use tape to create a "Start" line and a "Finish" line for a relay race.
- Place the bowl full of scenario cards just past the finish line.
- Let kids get into pairs, and have them form a line, ensuring that partners stand together.
- Hand two pool noodles to the first pair, with each kid holding one.
- When you say, "Go," they will work together to hold the beach ball up with just their pool noodles and walk to the finish line without dropping the ball.
- If they drop the ball, they must take it back to the starting line and start again.
- Once a pair reaches the bowl, one partner will pick one of the scenario cards out of the bowl while the other partner quickly brings the beach ball and pool noodles back and hands them to the next pair.
- Keep going until each pair has retrieved a card.
- Give pairs a couple minutes to read their scenario and talk about how someone could choose joy in that situation.
 - What should that person/those people focus on?
 - What is something good that could come out of choosing joy in that situation?
- When everyone has discussed their scenario, let a few pairs share what they talked about.
- As a group, take time to talk about how good can happen in the midst of a difficult situation.
 - Explain how the Apostles had to endure some really rough experiences (*imprisoned, beaten, etc.*), and yet they still chose joy.
 - Being sad is okay, but choosing to have joy means that we don't allow our tough circumstances to be all that we think about or focus on.

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WEEK
TWO
JUNE 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:
Ask:

- How is joy different from happiness?
- When is it easy to have joy? When is it difficult to have joy?
- What are some ways you can shift your focus to joy when you are having a hard time?
- How can your choice to have joy point others to Jesus?

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TWO
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PRETEEN

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large bag of M&M's®, hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give everyone a chance to use hand sanitizer.
- Pass one M&M to each kid and explain that the color of M&M they received will determine what kind of prayer they will pray.
- Take time to tell kids how prayer is simply a conversation with our closest friend. We can talk to God about anything and everything. Our ongoing conversation with God can deepen and grow our relationship.
- Let kids know what each M&M color stands for:
 - Red: Pray for someone in your family.
 - Orange: Pray for a friend or neighbor.
 - Blue: Pray for a leader (teacher, coach, pastor, elected official, etc.)
 - Green: Say thank You for something God has done for you.
 - Yellow: Ask God for help with finding joy in a particular situation.
 - Brown: Miscellaneous (anything you would like to pray about).
- Plan to open and close the prayer time yourself, and instruct the kids to pray their prayer, going around the circle in a clockwise direction.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

Open by saying:

"Dear God,

Thank You for being the reason that we can have joy through anything that happens. Thank You for showing us that we can trust You no matter what. We are so grateful that we can talk to You any time we want about anything that is going on with us . . ."

Close by saying:

"Thank You for listening to us. We know that You are here with us and that You care for each of us. We love You, God. In Your name we pray, Amen."

If there is time, share the rest of the M&Ms with the group.