



ELEMENTARY

JUNE 2024

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN JOY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Choose joy! This may be a commonly used phrase you've heard, but what does it *actually* mean? Joy is more than being excited about the good things that happen to us. Joy is an attitude—a decision to trust God no matter what is going on in our lives. From the very beginning, God had a plan for the world. As we dive into the Bible, we'll discover God's plan for us and how God has been at work through it all. When we see and celebrate what God is doing, we can find true joy!

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for JOY

Faith in God's Son. I believe in Jesus and will continually trust Him even when life doesn't make sense.

Jesus never promises that life will be easy or perfect, even when we follow Him. Though we may experience hurt and see pain all around us, God is still at work. Because of Jesus, we can experience a relationship with God and learn how to trust God no matter what.

JOY is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT JOY WITH KIDS

As you talk about joy this month, keep in mind that kids are concrete thinkers and need a solid starting point before they dive into bigger concepts and ideas. Kids may naturally equate joy with their circumstances or with their possessions . . . which can cause those who don't have as much to feel out of place or feel badly about themselves and their family. This is an opportunity to help kids see how joy is about more than the things we have. Explain how you can have joy whether you're having a good day or a bad day because God gave us Jesus. Guide the conversation to help kids find joy because of what God has done in their lives or in the life of someone they know.

Be sensitive to those kids or volunteers in your environment who may be experiencing more acute mental health-related illnesses. Clinical depression, anxiety, or PTSD will make it more difficult for people to experience joy or identify how God is at work. Enter those conversations with a posture of listening and encouragement. Don't rush in and try to fix anything with a quick answer or Bible verse. Connect with families impacted in this way and find out the best way you can help. And if your environment turns out to be the first point of contact for this family's experience, be sure to have a plan to connect that family to the help they need to ensure the child's safety.



WEEK
FOUR
JUNE 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

WEEK 4

In week 4, we take a look at some of David's Psalms—specifically, **Psalms 8, 16, and 19**. David wrote a lot about the things he observed in nature and the world around him that God had created. Through creation, we notice how God is at work—even if sometimes we struggle to see God's work in our own lives. Joy is all around us. We just have to look.

Bottom Line: **Find joy in what you see around you.** God has given us the amazing ability to use our senses so we can find joy through the beauty of God's creation. When kids tap into these senses, they can discover God in a whole new way. Even if not all of our senses work perfectly, we can find ways to see how God is at work in the world around us.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Look Around
Joy in the Psalms
Psalms 8, 16, and 19

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Find joy in what you see around you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A cheerful heart makes
you healthy. But a broken
spirit dries you up."**
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Joy—Choosing to celebrate
what God is doing**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Giant potato shape, drawn on poster board or brown craft paper (can be very simple)
- Painters tape or other adhesive to attach the potato poster to the wall
- Tape
- Blindfold(s)
- Potato Face Parts, printed from the LG Assets PDF and cut out

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun, instrumental music (suggestion: "Start the Party" instrumental)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Potato Face Parts (printable)
- Storyteller
- Five pre-selected adult or student helpers (see "What You Do")
- Bible, highlighted and marked with the five different verses that the leaders should read (see "What You Do")
- Highlighter(s) and sticky notes
- Microphone on a stand
- Story Box Icons, printed from the LG Assets PDF and cut out (see "What You Do")
 - Five boxes with removable lids, labeled with the Story Box Icons, containing items like these inside:
 - Box with eyes icon: framed photo of a sunset
 - Box with ear icon: vinyl record (something kid-appropriate that the kids would recognize)
 - Box with nose icon: fresh flowers
 - Box with mouth icon: fresh baked bread, like a baguette
 - Box with hand icon: soft beach towel
- Picture(s) of the Storyteller's loved ones
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Story Box Icons



PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
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25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, everyone! I'm pumped to see all of you here today, because it's time to Start the Party. We're having so much fun this summer talking about joy!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Joy is **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**"

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"We can find joy by looking around to see how God is at work in our lives, and in the lives of other people. See, joy is so much bigger than happiness. Joy comes from knowing that God loves us so much that Jesus came to be our Savior. That's true when things in our lives are going great, and it's also true when we face tough times. We can celebrate the good news about Jesus and choose to **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what!**

"You know, all this talk of celebration makes me want to play another fun party game. How about you?"

"Have you ever played 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey'? Well, today we'll get to play a game that's a LOT like that . . . but with a potato.

Walk over to the potato poster on the wall.

"As you can see, our potato friend needs a little help. He needs a face. So I'll pick a few of you to come up, one at a time, and add a part to the potato. If you get picked, you'll come up here and put on a blindfold. We'll give you a



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

quick spin, and then you'll come up and try to attach that part to where you think it goes on the potato. Make sense? Who wants to go first?

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "START THE PARTY" INSTRUMENTAL)

Choose a child. Give them a potato "body part" (eye, nose, mouth, ear, mustache, sunglasses) with tape already attached to the back. Then blindfold them . . . spin them once (not enough to actually make them dizzy) . . . and point them toward the poster.

After they place the part, let them take off the blindfold to see their work. Most likely all the parts will end up in the wrong places, but the goal is really just to have fun and laugh together.

Let several kids take turns adding parts to the potato. (There will be seven parts total.) Move quickly so you can get through all of them within three or four minutes. Take a moment to admire the completed potato and celebrate how well everyone did.

"Wow! I think we've landed on a really creative new version of a potato man. Great job, everybody! I think you might have had an easier time without the blindfold—but then again, it wouldn't have been nearly as interesting.

"I love looking around and seeing all the things God has made, and seeing all the ways God is at work in our lives. That definitely brings me joy and makes me want to celebrate. Let's all stand up now and get ready to sing and celebrate God together."



10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! Before we get started in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): [LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL](#)

"Our first song today is called 'Start the Party.' It's a REALLY fun one. I love that worship is fun! And I love that one of the ways we get to know God better is with the songs we sing. God sent Jesus for us, and that's the kind of good news we should celebrate. It's time for us to move, clap our hands, and sing with all the joy in our hearts. Here we go!

AUDIO: ["START THE PARTY" / TRACK 1 FROM START THE PARTY](#)

OPTIONAL VIDEO: ["START THE PARTY" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)

"I love it! So fun. Listen to David's words to God here in Psalm 5:11: *'Let all those who go to you for safety be glad. Let them always sing for joy. Spread your cover over them and keep them safe. Then those who love you will be glad because of you.'* (NIRV) Today we get to 'sing for joy,' just like David said. We can live our whole lives as a way to worship God. With joy in our hearts, let's sing this together."

AUDIO: ["MY LIFE FOR YOU" / TRACK 9 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU](#)

OPTIONAL VIDEO: ["MY LIFE FOR YOU" LIE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I’m excited to share some words with you from the book of Psalms (*hold up Bible*) that can help us understand how we can find joy.

“There are lots of different books that make up the Bible, and lots of different KINDS of books. Some books tell the history of God’s people, the Israelites. Some tell about the life of Jesus and what happened with the early church. Some books are letters written by people like Paul to different churches as they learned how to follow Jesus. The book of Psalms is a bit different. You could think of the book of Psalms as a collection of SONGS. We don’t know the tunes for these songs, but you can think of them as song lyrics!

“For thousands of years, the book of Psalms was like the main songbook of God’s people, the Israelites. The individual songs, or psalms, were written over many years . . . and about half of them were written by King David.

“Some psalms are songs of praise or thanksgiving to God. Others share wisdom. And many of the psalms are cries for help in a tough situation. We can find amazing truths in the Psalms about who we are . . . Who God is . . . and the incredible world that God created.

“I’ve chosen some helpers to help me share some of David’s words with you. Can my helpers come up, please?”

Five pre-selected helpers come up on stage.

DAVID’S OBSERVATIONS

STORYTELLER: “Sometimes the best way to discover joy is simply to open your eyes and look around. King David was really great at this. Long before David became king, he was a shepherd boy. He spent lots of time—days and nights—alone with just the sheep. He had all the time in the world to look around him at God’s amazing creation.

“David shared about the things he noticed in several different psalms.

Open the Bible to the note marking Psalm 8. Hand it to the first helper to read. Make sure the helper reads it into the microphone.

HELPER #1:

*Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in the whole earth!*

*You have set your glory
in the heavens. (Psalm 8:1, NIV)*

Hand the Bible to the second helper to read.



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

HELPER #2:

*I think about the heavens.
I think about what your fingers have created.
I think about the moon and stars
that you have set in place. (Psalm 8:3, NIRV)*

Open the Bible to the note marking Psalm 19. Hand it to the third helper to read.

HELPER #3:

*The heavens tell about the glory of God.
The skies show that his hands created them.
Day after day they speak about it.
Night after night they make it known. (Psalm 19:1-2, NIRV)*

Hand the Bible to the fourth helper to read.

HELPER #4:

*God has set up a tent in the heavens for the sun. . . .
The sun is like a great runner who takes delight in running a race. (Psalm 19:4-5)*

STORYTELLER: "Wow. David learned to find joy in all of God's creation around him! And that's something we can do too."

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

STORYTELLER: "One of the best ways to find joy around you is to use your senses. Do you know what the five senses are? (Pause for response.) Yes—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch."

"The truth is, your senses are an amazing gift from God! Like David, you can find joy when you use your senses to experience the good things God has put in your life. You can find joy in what you SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TOUCH, and TASTE. Let me show you what I mean."

(To helper #1) "[Helper's name], you're up first.

Set the box with the eyes icon in front of helper #1.

"Can you open this up and show us an example of something we might SEE that could bring us joy?"

Helper #1 opens the box and holds up the framed photo of a sunset.

Note: The helpers should keep holding up their items throughout the next section.

(To audience) "Look at that beautiful sunset! I love all the colors, don't you? What are some other things you might SEE that could bring you joy?"

Take a few quick examples from the kids.

"Those are great examples! Now let's look at some things that could bring us joy if we HEAR them."



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25 MINUTES

Set the box with the ear icon in front of helper #2. Helper #2 opens the box to reveal the vinyl record.

"Oh, cool! I love listening to music. It's pretty fun how records are cool again! Now, can you tell me some more examples of things we HEAR that can bring us joy?"

Take a few quick examples from the kids.

"Up next—how about the things we SMELL? Can those things bring us joy too?"

Set the box with the nose icon in front of helper #3. Helper #3 opens the box to reveal the fresh flowers.

"Mmmm . . . fresh flowers smell SO good. (Smell them.) What are some other examples of scents that bring you joy?"

Take a few quick examples from the kids.

"Next up is TASTE. I bet you can think of some things you like to eat that bring you joy!"

Set the box with the mouth icon in front of helper #4. Helper #4 opens the box to reveal the bakery bread.

"Now that's a good one—fresh baked bread. Yum! What are some foods that bring YOU joy?"

Take a few quick examples from the kids.

"Okay, one more box. How about something you TOUCH?"

Set the box with the hand icon in front of helper #5. Helper #5 opens the box to reveal the beach towel.

"What do you have there, [helper's name]? Ah, yes—a nice, soft towel. I love the feeling of drying off with a big beach towel after I get out of the pool. What are some other examples of things you TOUCH that bring you joy?"

Take a few quick examples from the kids.

PEOPLE WHO BRING JOY

STORYTELLER: "God has given us so many ways to enjoy things and to discover joy through our senses! But we can also find joy when we pay attention to the unique and wonderful PEOPLE God made.

Note: If anyone mentioned a person for one of the sensory examples above, you can reference their answer again here.

"It's pretty amazing when you think about the unique and special way God made each person. Here's what David had to say about that in Psalm 8. This is David talking to God.

Open the Bible to the note marking Psalm 8. Hand it to the fifth helper to read.



25 MINUTES

HELPER #5:

What are human beings that you think about them?
What is a son of man that you take care of him?
You have made them a little lower than the angels.
You placed on them a crown of glory and honor.

You made human beings rule over everything your hands created. (Psalm 8:4-6, NIV)

STORYTELLER: "Let me tell you about a few of the people who bring ME joy.

SLIDE: PICTURE(S) OF THE STORYTELLER'S LOVED ONES

Share about the people you've chosen. Briefly explain how each of them brings you joy.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

"I'm so grateful to God for putting [names] in my life. They bring me joy every day!

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "There are so many ways that we can find joy in the world around us.

Reference each of the helpers, who are still holding up their items.

"If we pay attention, we can find joy in what we see . . . hear . . . smell . . . taste . . . and touch. We can find joy in the people we love. We can find joy when we realize that God is the One Who put all of these wonderful things and people in our lives . . . and when we choose to be thankful.

"As David reminded us in Psalm 16, our true joy comes from our relationship with God.

Open the Bible to Psalm 16:8-9, 11 (NIV) and read.

I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
He is at my right hand.
So I will always be secure.

So my heart is glad. Joy is on my tongue. . . .
You always show me the path of life.
You will fill me with joy when I am with you.
You will make me happy forever at your right hand." (Psalm 16:8-9, 11, NIV)

"So here's our challenge. Here's what you can choose to do. Like David did . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Find joy in what you see around you.



25 MINUTES

"Let's pray and thank God for giving us so many reasons to have joy."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for all the joy You've put in our lives. Thank You for the way we can see Your goodness and love in the world around us—just like David wrote about in the Psalms. We can look at the beautiful world You created . . . our favorite things that we enjoy . . . and the amazing people You've made. Help us to pay attention to the things You've given us that can bring us joy! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “I feel like I can always do a better job of looking around and noticing the good things in my life. God has given us all kinds of amazing gifts that we can see all around us. And by that I mean things we can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch—not to mention the people we love!

“I know life is full of ups and downs. When life is going great, we can find joy in thanking God for the good things that are happening. And even when things aren’t going the way we hoped, we can still find joy by paying attention to the good things and people around us . . . just like David did!

“Remember:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Find joy in what you see around you.

“That’s really important, isn’t it? Let’s say it again together.”

HOST AND KIDS: “Find joy in what you see around you.”

HOST: “God’s Spirit can help us pay attention to the good things in our lives. When we put our trust in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. And we know that joy is one of the things God’s Spirit creates in us! You can always find joy when you think about how much God loves you . . . and when you remember that, **[Basic Truth] you can trust God no matter what.**

“So, this week, let’s all try to pay attention to the things around us . . . and find joy! You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about that.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP