

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Acknowledge any hard things you're facing, then reflect on how God sent Jesus. Ask God to help you find joy in what God has done. Ask God to help the kids in your group to be open about the hard stuff they're facing and receptive to trusting God's character to make things right.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
God Will Give Us Joy
Habakkuk 3:17-18

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, walking stick (or similar), and device for playing music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Ask: "What are some things you have celebrated recently?"
- Choose a kid to help you hold the walking stick (or similar) horizontally at shoulder height.
- Instruct the other kids to form a line in front of the stick.
- Play music.
- Direct the kids to take turns dancing under the stick without touching it.
- If someone falls, touches the ground, or touches the stick, declare them to be out.
- Lower the stick a bit for each new round.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a reason to celebrate.

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.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Party hats, painter's tape, and device for playing music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a party hat to wear.
- Create a small area using the tape and designate it as the Celebration Zone.
- Choose a kid to be "It."
- Play music and instruct the kids to dance or move around.
- Instruct the kids to try to take off their hats without "It" noticing.
 - If "It" catches someone removing their hat, direct that kid to go to the Celebration Zone and cheer on the others.
- Continue this way until one or a few kids remain.
- Play several rounds, switching the person who is "It" each round.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job cheering each other on from the Celebration Zone! Isn't that so much better than getting upset about being caught? **[Transition] Today, we'll hear about someone who, in the middle of chaos and tough times, chose to celebrate and find joy instead of being upset. Let's go find out more!**"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a reason to celebrate.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



3. VERSE CHARADES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Acting Cards" Activity Page, "Verse Motions" Activity Page from Week 1, and opaque bag

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review the verse using the motions from the "Verse Motions" Activity Page (same as week 1).
- Put the cards from the "Acting Cards" Activity Page in the bag.
- Choose a kid to pick a card from the bag and act out that word(s) from the Memory Verse.
 - Share that kids can come up with their own action, or use the ones reviewed from the "Verse Motions" Activity Page.
- Repeat until all the words have been chosen from the bag.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
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WHAT YOU SAY:

"It's okay to feel upset when things are tough. But, when we choose joy and celebrate God's goodness, it helps us practice this verse. One way to practice this verse while going through hard times is to remember that **there's always a reason to celebrate**. When we pause and recall all the things God has done for us in the past, it gives us hope for the future. When we're hopeful, it makes us feel joyful. Having a happy heart makes us healthy."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared “Joy Journals” from previous weeks; additional prepared, blank “Joy Journal” Activity Pages; markers; and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their “Joy Journals” from the previous week.
- Set out the pencils.
- Give blank “Joy Journal” Activity Pages to any kids who you don’t have a journal for. Encourage them to write their names on the front cover.
- Direct the kids to turn to page 6.
- Read the Bottom Line, and invite the kids to recite it with you a few times.
 - **There’s always a reason to celebrate.**
- Set out the markers.
- Read the prompt: “Draw or write about a situation that feels scary or uncertain.”
- Encourage kids to draw a difficult, scary, or uncertain situation they’re concerned to face or are facing.
- If time allows, give kids who were not present for previous weeks some time to fill in any blank, previous pages.
- Encourage the kids to take their Joy Journals home and flip through them to be reminded that they can always find joy.
- Close your group time in prayer.

NOTE: If you’ve sent individual pages home each week, encourage the kids to put the pages together to form a Joy Journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, You already know the situations we face that make us feel afraid or uncertain about the future. Help us to remember Your goodness and focus on the times You’ve shown up in our lives. Help us remember how You’ve promised to make everything right. Thank You for the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their “Joy Journals.”

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