



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

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. Reflect on the people God has placed in your life who have been present with you in times of happiness and in times of sadness. Ask God to help the kids in your group develop empathy like Jesus was empathetic.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Come Rain or Come Shine**  
Be Joyful with Others  
Romans 12:15  
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, and party hats

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You can help others find joy.**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to help you set out one color of party hats on one side of your small group area, and the other color on the other side of your small group.
- When enough kids have arrived, ask the group "Would You Rather" questions.
  - If their answer is A, instruct the kids to run to one color of party hats and put one on.
  - If their answer is B, instruct the kids to run to the other color of party hat and put one on.
- One at a time, ask the questions below.
- If time allows, invite kids to come up with party-related "Would You Rather" questions.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"**  
Philippians 4:4, NIRV

"Would You Rather . . ."

- 1) Have a three-tiered cake of your second favorite flavor, or B) have a small cake of your favorite flavor?
- 2) Have a huge party with all of your friends, or B) have a small party with a few close friends and family?
- 3) Get lots of small presents on your birthday, or B) get one really big present?
- 4) Have a party at home, or B) have a party somewhere else?
- 5) Have a pajama party, or B) have a party where everyone dresses up fancy?
- 6) Have a party with super-fancy dinner and drinks, or B) eat pizza?
- 7) Have a specific-themed party, or B) just have traditional decorations?
- 8) Play party games, or B) play video games?

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CREATE**

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



**3. YOU'RE INVITED!**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, cardstock, markers, and  
*Optional: additional decorating supplies*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, Philippians 4:4, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Come Rain or Come Shine**  
Be Joyful with Others  
Romans 12:15  
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 4.*

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

You can help others find joy.

- Instruct the kids to fold their piece of cardstock in half (short way/hamburger style), then cut along the line to create two separate pieces.
- Say: "You are going to make two party invitations."
- On both half-sheets of paper, instruct each kid to write: "You're Invited . . . to choose joy!"
- Encourage kids to decorate both "invitations" any way they choose.
- On the back of each "invitation," instruct the kids to write the Memory Verse, copying it from their Bible if needed.
- When kids have finished creating their invitations, say: "We never know what people are going through and how everyone could use a little joy."
- Encourage kids to hand out these invitations to anyone they think could use some joy this week!

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"  
Philippians 4:4, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

**BASIC TRUTH**

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Your invitations look amazing! Each invitation is unique—so is the story of every person we meet. We really never know what people are going through and how they could need joy. This week, be on the lookout for how **you can help others find joy** and hand an invitation to them. Let them know that no matter what they're going through, they're invited to celebrate the good things God is doing!"



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25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage kids to think about their partner from the In My Shoes Activity.
- If you did not do this activity, assign each kid a prayer partner to be thinking about.
- While you pray, instruct the kids to silently say the name of this friend to themselves each time you say, "my friend."

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, thank You for **my friend**. Only You know what **my friend** is facing and what **my friend** needs each and every day to experience the joy that is offered in Jesus. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit to help me understand how to show love and joy to **my friend**. I know **you can help others find joy**. Help me be an encouragement to them and know how to pray for them this week. Thank You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show their invitations from the You're Invited! Activity, and share who they plan to give them to.