



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WEEK 3

For week 3, we head to **Romans 12:15**. Paul wrote to the church in Rome about what true love looked like. Part of sharing the love of Jesus means showing empathy and being sad with others who were sad or joyful with others who were joyful. When we do that, we can help others to see not only our love, but the love of Jesus too.

Bottom Line: **You can help others find joy.** Can you think of a time when you went through something difficult, but someone was there for you during that? What about when you received the best news ever? During the ups and downs, knowing someone was there for you helped to make that situation so much better. The same is true the other way around. We have a chance to be there for others and help them experience joy too.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

### Host

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Several Hula-Hoops®, depending on how many circles you want to use for the game (see "What You Do")
- Host's phone

#### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

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

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

### 3. BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible, highlighted at Romans 12:2, 12:10, and 12:15
- Three adult Small Group Leaders
- Microphone on a stand
- Kid volunteers to join the scenes when directed
- Table
- Large prop box containing:
  - Wrapped birthday present (i.e. a wrapped box with nothing inside; the actual gift item can be imaginary)
  - Worksheet with a giant A+ on it
  - Large cookie
  - Plush animal (like a teddy bear)
- Storyteller's phone

### 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.

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide



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**THREE**  
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

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

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

You can help others find joy.

**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.

**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:** "Hi there, friends! If you're glad to be here today, give a friend a high five like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Well, I'm really happy I'm here because we're talking about one of my very favorite things . . . JOY!

"We might feel joyful when the sun is shining and everything is going our way. But we can also feel joyful on tough days . . . and on the in-between days too.

"You see, joy doesn't come from the things that happen to us.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

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

"We can find joy by **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

"We can see how God is working to do good things in our lives, or in the lives of other people. We can celebrate the good news that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That's something that can always bring us joy—no matter what!

"One of my favorite ways to celebrate and Start the Party is by playing party games! Anybody want to play a really fun game? *(Pause for responses.)* Great! First, let's all make one really big circle.

*Get everyone to make a circle around the perimeter of the room. (If you have more than 30 kids, you may want to split them into two different circles.)*



25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

“Okay, I think we’re ready. When I say ‘go,’ you’ll grab the person’s hand who’s next to you—on both sides. I’ll put this Hula-Hoop somewhere in the circle, hanging from someone’s arm. You’ll try to move the Hula-Hoop around the entire circle . . . without ever letting go of each other’s hands!

“Do you think we can do it? Can we get all the way around the circle in two minutes? Let’s give it a try! On your mark, get set, go!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: “START THE PARTY” INSTRUMENTAL VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (5-MINUTE VERSION, CUED UP TO 2:00)

If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for two minutes.

Quickly separate two kids’ hands, then hang the Hula-Hoop around one of their arms. Then have those two kids rejoin hands. Cheer for the kids as they move the Hula-Hoop around the circle.

Congratulate the kids if they “beat the clock” and get the Hula-Hoop all the way around the circle in less than two minutes. If time allows, you could play another round—with more or less time on the clock according to how they did the first time. (Give them less time in order to make the game more challenging. If they couldn’t make it around the first time, you could either add time for the second round, or split the circle into two smaller circles to make the game easier.)

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: “START THE PARTY” INSTRUMENTAL VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (FOR HOWEVER LONG YOU NEED, BASED ON WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FIRST ROUND)

If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set another timer for the new time. Start the game again and cheer for the kids as they play.

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“Way to go, everyone! I can’t believe how fast you got that Hula-Hoop around the circle. I saw some very joyful and very impressive shimmying! Let’s keep moving now as we sing and worship God. Everyone on your feet!”



10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Oh, yeah. It's time to start the party! Everybody get on your feet. Get ready to sing and celebrate. I believe there is joy in this place, so let's crank up the music. Sing and dance with us. Come on!"

**AUDIO:** "START THE PARTY" / TRACK 1 FROM START THE PARTY

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "START THE PARTY" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"We can live with joy because of what God has done in our lives . . . and because we know that God has a good plan for us. As David said to God in Psalm 139:6: *'I'm amazed at how well you know me. It's more than I can understand.'* (NirV) Don't ever forget that God is with you—always. You are a child of God. Let's sing about that now."

**AUDIO:** "WHO YOU SAY I AM" / TRACK 5 FROM KIDMIN WORSHIP VOL 7

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "WHO YOU SAY I AM" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO



25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! Today we're looking at the book of Romans (*hold up Bible*) to find something we can do to help other people find joy. This is a really important idea, because we know how good it feels when someone helps US find joy. And like Jesus taught us, [**Basic Truth**] **we should treat others the way we want to be treated.**

(*Hold up Bible.*) "The book of Romans was originally a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers who lived in Rome. Paul had never met these Jesus-followers before, but he prayed for them often, and he wanted to visit them. Paul wrote this letter because he wanted to encourage the believers in Rome and help them understand why God had sent Jesus to the world.

"In his letter, Paul explained to the Romans that God had sent Jesus to set us free . . . and because of what Jesus has done for us, we can now choose to show God's love to others.

### CHANGE MY WAY OF THINKING

**STORYTELLER:** "Paul shared how people who follow Jesus are set free from sin—from the wrong things they've done. And because of that freedom that Jesus has brought us, our lives can begin to look different.

"Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 12:2. (*To a Small Group Leader*) [Leader's name], will you come up and read this out loud for us, please?"

*Bring up the adult leader. Open the Bible to Romans 12:2 (NirV) and hand it to the leader to read. (Make sure the leader speaks into the microphone.)*

**LEADER:** *Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (NirV)*

*Keep the leader up on stage after they finish reading.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Okay—wow. That was some really important advice that Paul gave. He said, 'Let your way of thinking be completely changed.' (NirV) As we follow Jesus, God begins to change the way we think . . . and that changes the way we treat the people around us.

(*To a different Small Group Leader*) "[Leader's name], would you come up and read this next part for us?"

*Bring up the adult leader. Open the Bible to Romans 12:10 (NirV) and hand it to the leader to read. (Make sure the leader speaks into the microphone.)*

**LEADER:** *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. (NirV)*

*Keep the leader up on stage after they finish reading.*



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**STORYTELLER:** “Yes! That’s what it means to love others the way Jesus loves us—by **[Basic Truth]** **treating others the way we want to be treated**, and honoring others more than ourselves.

### JOY WITH THE JOYFUL

**STORYTELLER:** “Paul went on to share a great idea about how we can show love in that way. *(To a different Small Group Leader)* [Leader’s name], could you come up and read this next part for us, please?”

*Bring up the adult leader. Open the Bible to Romans 12:15 (NIRV) and hand it to the leader to read. (Make sure the leader speaks into the microphone.)*

**LEADER:** *Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. (NIRV)*

**STORYTELLER:** “That’s SO good, [leader’s name]. Could you read it again?”

**LEADER:** *Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. (NIRV)*

*Keep the leader up on stage after they finish reading.*

**STORYTELLER:** “We can share joy by trying to imagine what someone else is feeling. We can think about how we would feel if what happened to them happened to US. That can help us know how to be a really good friend . . . and share God’s love.

“Let’s see what this could look like in our lives by having our leaders act out some scenarios together. *(Reference the leaders on stage.)* I’ll describe what’s happening while they act it out for us. When I say ‘freeze,’ they’ll freeze . . . and keep their facial expression frozen in place. Then some of YOU will have the chance to come up, join them in the scenario, and show us what it would look like to feel what they feel—right along WITH them. Sound good?”

“Okay—[leader’s name], you’re up first.

*Give the wrapped birthday present to one of the leaders on stage.*

“This is [leader’s name]. Today is his birthday, and his aunt gave him a birthday gift. It looks like he’s about to open it. *(Nod to cue the leader to open the gift.)* He’s opening it! He’s looking inside. Oh, wow! He’s so excited! He finally got the game system he’s been wanting! FREEZE!”

“Okay, who thinks they can come up here and show us what it looks like to be joyful with someone who’s joyful? Just come on up next to [leader’s name] and freeze in place with your best joyful smile. Raise your hand if you want to do it.

*Quickly pick three other kids to come up and join the scene with the leader, looking joyful with him while they’re frozen in place. Optional: Take a photo of the scene with your phone that you can share later!*

“All right, thanks! *(To the kids on stage)* You can go back to your seats. Next scene!”

*Give the worksheet with a giant A+ on it to another leader on stage.*



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

"This is [leader's name]. She just got her math worksheet back from her teacher. It looks like it has a grade on it. She's holding it up so we can see! (Make sure she does this.) What does that say? A+ . . . wow! She's really happy about that grade! FREEZE!

"Raise your hand if you want to come up and be joyful with [leader's name].

*Quickly pick three other kids to come up and join the scene with the leader, looking joyful with her while they're frozen in place. Optional: take a photo of the scene. Then dismiss the kids to their seats.*

SHARING SADNESS

STORYTELLER: "It's fun to celebrate with someone when something good happens to them. And usually that feels pretty easy . . . well, except maybe when they get something you want that you didn't get. But when we love someone, we can choose to celebrate with them rather than being jealous of what they have. That's what Paul meant when he said we should be joyful with people who are joyful. We should share their joy . . . and also share our joy with them!

"But Paul also wrote that we should be sad with people who are sad. That's really important too. When someone is sad, sometimes the very best thing you can do is just be with them and let them know that you see how they feel. Sometimes people need someone to be sad with them for a while . . . because that can help them find joy again later.

"All right—time for another scenario.

*Give the large cookie to the third leader on stage.*

"This is [leader's name]. She didn't like what her mom made for dinner, so she didn't eat much. But now she wants dessert. Her mom's rule is that she can't have dessert if she didn't eat her dinner. So, her mom said no cookie. [Leader's name] doesn't look happy. Oh—now she's getting pretty upset. Yeah, she's really upset now. FREEZE!

"Raise your hand if you want to come up and be a friend to [leader's name] and feel what she feels.

*Quickly pick three other kids to come up and join the scene with the leader, looking upset with her while they're frozen in place. Optional: take a photo of the scene. Then dismiss the kids to their seats.*

"We've got one more—and this is another one for [first leader's name].

*Give the plush animal to the first leader.*

"[Leader's name] just found out that his grandma is sick and in the hospital. He was hoping that she would be able to come visit soon, but now it looks like he might not get to see her for a while because she lives far away. [Leader's name] is really sad. He loves his grandma so much and misses her a lot. FREEZE!

"Quick—raise your hand if you can come up and be sad with [leader's name].

*Quickly pick three other kids to come up and join the scene with the leader, looking sad with him while they're frozen in place. Motion to the other two leaders to come and put their arms around the first leader too. Optional: take a photo of the scene.*



25 MINUTES

"Wow. You all did so well. It's so important to love people by celebrating with them and also being sad with them. That can help them find joy, even if it's not right away. (To the helpers on stage) Thank you all for your help—and thank you to everyone else (look into the audience) who helped too.

*Dismiss the kids and leaders to their seats.*

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "The more you learn to feel what other people feel, the more you'll be able to show God's love to others . . . just like Paul encouraged the Romans to do.

"Remember what Paul wrote:

*Open the Bible to Romans 12:15 (NirV) and read.*

*Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. (NirV)*

"If you can show love in the good times and the tough times . . .

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"You can help others find joy.**

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You for Paul's reminder that we can help others find joy by loving them well. Please help us to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.** Help us pay attention to the people around us . . . to notice what they're going through . . . and really feel what they feel. Thank You for the way You've created us to bring joy to each other's lives—in the good times and in the tough times too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."





25 MINUTES

## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “Paul shared an important idea about how we can help others find joy. When someone else is full of joy, you can be full of joy WITH them! And if someone you know is sad, you can be sad with them so they know they’re not alone. Choosing to be with someone in their sadness might even help them to be able to find joy . . . even if it’s not right away.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“You can help others find joy.**

“Of course, we can’t always know exactly what everyone else is feeling. But we can use our imagination to think about how we might feel if we were going through what THEY’RE going through. We can pray and ask God to help us see the people around us and think about how we can share joy with them.

“We can think about Jesus and remember how HE helped others find joy. Jesus shared God’s love everywhere He went—especially with people who might have felt sad, hurt, or overlooked.

“It’s not always easy to celebrate with people who are celebrating, or to be sad with someone who is sad. It might not come naturally to us to do these kinds of things. But we can practice! And practice makes progress. The more we practice something, the better we get at it. And we know that God’s Holy Spirit can help us show love in a way that will really mean a lot to the other person. So let’s ask God to help us help others find joy!

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about how we can share joy with the people around us. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**