



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS  
STAGE

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

I can help my friends have joy.

**BE JOYFUL WITH OTHERS**  
**ROMANS 12:15**

### MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

**LUKE 2:10, ESV**

### KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

### BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Leader Joy  
Hands On  
Sending a Special Message

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

#### **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

"Best Friend" and "Start the Party"

Bible Story  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Sing the Memory Verse  
Love Helps  
Love Like Jesus  
Joy Bowling  
Friendship Bracelets  
Journal and Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home  
Memory Verse Card  
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)  
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

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**KEY QUESTION**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**LARGE GROUP**

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

**WORSHIP**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Best Friend," included in your monthly files; and "Start the Party," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Start the Party," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

*Worship Leader enters.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey, boys and girls! My name is [your name], and I'm SO happy you're here! We're learning all summer long that we can celebrate the GOOD news because **Jesus gives me joy.**

"When I ask, '**Who gives you joy?**' I want you to say, '**Jesus gives me joy!**' **Who gives you joy?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**Jesus gives me joy.**"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "You've got it! And **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!** Stand up on your feet and sing this out with me.

*Lead children in singing "Best Friend," this month's worship song.*

"That's right! **Jesus gives me joy!** And the Bible teaches us that an angel said: 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people;' (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.)

"Let's say our Memory Verse together."

*Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.*

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people;' (arms out wide) Luke 2:10." (Open hands like a book.)

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "The good news was that Jesus was born. Now let's sing and dance and celebrate the good news!"



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10 MINUTES

*Lead children in singing "Start the Party."*

"Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

*Host enters as Worship Leader exits.*

### INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** rolling cart, popsicle mold, orange juice, lemonade carton, container of diced strawberries, and container of blueberries; *Optional: table and large tray; Optional: empty, opaque cartons of orange juice and lemonade*

*Note: Since summer will be winding down for many at this point, consider having a simple popsicle party after church. Whether they're homemade or inexpensive store-bought popsicles, enjoying popsicles outside while children play can be an easy way to reconnect with parents and foster community.*

*Preset all the supplies on a rolling cart. Option: If using a table, set everything on a large tray except the popsicle mold, and preset the tray on the table in the storytelling area. Host will enter carrying popsicle mold.*

*Host enters, pushing the rolling cart, as Worship Leader exits.*

**HOST:** "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment or story time]! My name is [your name]! And I have got to say . . .

*Fan yourself with their hand as if you are hot.*

". . . it is HOT outside, today!

"When it's this hot, there's only one thing I want to eat. I think you might like it too. It starts with a puh-puh-puh sound.

*Hold up popsicle mold.*

"Shout it out if you think you know what it is! (*Pause.*) I heard someone say it! Yes! It's puh-puh-POPSicles!

"My friends and I LOVE popsicles! And I wanted to bring my friends a little extra joy, so I decided to make popsicles for them!

*Hold up popsicle mold.*

"These are going to be super-special popsicles. Three of them will be frozen orange juice. Can you count with me?

*Pour orange juice into the popsicle mold. Option: Use an empty orange juice carton and pretend to pour orange juice.*

"One popsicle. Two popsicles. Three popsicles! Great! Three orange popsicles!

"Now, the next three will be frozen lemonade. Let's count again.



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*Pour lemonade into the popsicle mold. Option: Use an opaque, empty lemonade carton and pretend to pour lemonade.*

"One popsicle. Two popsicles. Three popsicles! Yum! Three lemonade popsicles!

"Okay, now I'm going to add something to make them extra yummy.

*Hold up berries.*

"Berries! If you like strawberries, pat your head like this.

*Pat your head with your hand.*

"If you like blueberries, wiggle your ears like this.

*Wiggle your ears with your hands.*

"I like all kinds of berries! I'm going to put a few berries in each popsicle. Plop, plop, plop!

*Drop berries into the popsicle mold.*

"These popsicles will be such a fun surprise for my friends! I need to go put them in the freezer. See you after the story! Bye!"

*Storyteller enters as Host exits with rolling cart (or tray of supplies).*

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Emojis" Activity Pages, and cardstock; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

*Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible and the three emoji pictures.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

*Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.*

"Today's true story from the Bible begins with a man named Paul.

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)*

"Paul taught people that Jesus loves us and can give us joy.

"One day, Paul wrote a letter to Jesus' friends, and he told them how they could love like Jesus and help their friends have joy.

"Would you like to hear some ways we can love like Jesus? If you said yes, make a heart with your hands like this.



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*Make a heart with your hands.*

"Great! First, I need a helper to hold a picture for me.

*Pick a child to hold the sad face emoji.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)*

"Maybe our friend is sad because their toy broke. Can you make your heart hands again?"

*Make a heart with your hands.*

"Yes, we can help our friends have joy and love like Jesus when we sit with them while they are sad. Great job! You can put your hands down now.

*(To volunteer.)* "Thank you for helping me. You can sit back down. *(To children.)* Now I need another helper to hold a picture for me.

*Pick a child to hold the laughing face emoji.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)*

"Maybe our friend saw something funny or their toy made them laugh. Show me your heart hands!"

*Make a heart with your hands.*

"Yes, we can help our friends have joy and love like Jesus when we laugh with our friends who are laughing.

*(To volunteer.)* "Thank you for helping me. You can sit back down. *(To children.)* Now I need another helper to hold a picture for me.

*Pick a child to hold the party face emoji.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)*

"Maybe our friend opened a really cool present at their birthday party, and they're very excited. Show me your heart hands one more time.

*Make a heart with your hands.*

"Yes, we can help our friends have joy and love like Jesus by being excited with our friends when they are excited.

*(To volunteer.)* "Thank you for helping me. You can sit back down. *(To children.)* No matter how our friends feel—sad or happy or any other way—we can help them have joy by loving them like Jesus.

"Jesus loves us all the time, and Jesus gives us joy! So when I ask you, **'Who gives you joy?'** I want you to say, **'Jesus gives me joy!'** Let's try that!"



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10 MINUTES

**STORYTELLER:** "Who gives you joy?"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus gives me joy!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Say it with a big smile! Who gives you joy?"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Jesus gives me joy!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, Jesus gives me joy. [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

### PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Jesus is the best friend! He always loves us and helps us have joy. Please help us be a good friend and love like Jesus so we can help others have joy too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

"What a great story! Knowing how much Jesus loves me gives me joy! I'll see you next time! Bye!"

*Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible and pictures.*

### OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jesus gives me joy! And when I love like Jesus, I can help others have joy too."

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "Got it!"

**HOST:** (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"I'm going to go check on my popsicles. I can't wait to love like Jesus and share them with my friends! See you next time! Bye!"

**[Transition]** "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Host dismisses small groups and exits.*