



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy forever because Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

HEAVEN
REVELATION 21, 22:1-5;
JOHN 14:3

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.

- Flip Side
- Something Amazing 
- Spinning Forever

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Best Friend" and "I Love You So Much"

- 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.

- Broadcast News
- What Will Heaven Be Like?
- Forever Paper Chain
- Spread the Joy
- Pure Joy
- Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



WEEK
FOUR
JULY 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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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 "I Love You So Much," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "Best Friend," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "I Love You So Much," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad to see you! Do you know why? Because I LOVE worshipping with you! We can sing and dance and tell God how much we love Him. We're learning that **Jesus gives me joy. Who gives you joy?"**

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "You've got it. **Jesus gives me joy.** Jesus is our best friend! So stand up 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 that together.

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

"Great job! This is good news of great joy because Jesus loves everyone inside and out! Sing this with me."

Lead children in singing "I Love You So Much."

"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.



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: birthday wrapping paper, scissors, tape, and a box; *Option: gift bag and tissue paper instead of the birthday-wrapped box*

Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host is very excited and carries a birthday present.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment or story time]! My name is [your name], and I'm going to my friend's birthday party today!

Hold up the birthday present.

"Have you ever been to a birthday party? (*Pause.*) I love birthday parties! I especially love singing the Happy Birthday song.

(*Singing.*) "Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!"

"Oh! And I also really love playing the party games with my friends! I just love birthday parties so much!"

"What do you like best about birthday parties? When I count to three, yell out what you like best! One, two, three! (*Listen.*)

"All of that sounds SO fun! Don't you wish birthday parties could last forever?"

"Hey! Did you know our Bible Story today is about a party that will NEVER end? (*Short pause.*) It's true! I can't wait for you to hear all about it! See you after the story! Bye!"

Storyteller enters as Host exits with birthday present.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, small table, tote bag, big box of bandages, toy stethoscope or preschool doctor's kit, rubber ball, permanent marker, and a party horn; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

Preset a small table in the storytelling area.

Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible and a prepared tote bag.

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

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

(*Option: Display Story Image W4 01*)

"Jesus is God's Son and Jesus wants to be our friend forever. And since Jesus is our friend forever, we can have JOY forever.



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"Did you know that Jesus is getting heaven ready right now for all of His friends? *(Pause for response.)*

"Would you like to hear what heaven is going to be like?

Pull out a big box of bandages for the children to see, then lay them on the table.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 02)

"In heaven, there will be no more boo-boos. No skinned knees. No bumps on the head. Everyone can run and play and no one will ever get hurt in heaven! Say, 'No more boo-boos!' with me!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "No more boo-boos!"

Pull out a toy stethoscope or preschool doctor's kit. Pretend to use the stethoscope (or other item from doctor's kit) while you talk.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 03)

STORYTELLER: "In heaven, no one will ever get sick. No runny noses. No tummy aches. No earaches. Everyone will be healthy in heaven! Say, 'No more sick!' with me!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "No more sick!"

Pull out the sad face rubber ball for the children to see, and then set it on the table in a way where it won't roll away.

(Option: Display Story Image W4 04)

STORYTELLER: "In heaven, no one will ever be sad, because sad things don't happen in heaven. Say, 'No more sad!' with me!"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "No more sad!"

STORYTELLER: "In heaven, there will be nothing to worry about and no reason to be afraid. We will have everything we need. We won't get hungry or tired or lonely. Heaven will be like a party that never ends!"

Blow a party horn.

"We will have joy all the time, because we will be with our friend Jesus, and Jesus gives us joy!"

"So, this time, when I ask you: **'Who gives you joy?'** I want everyone to cheer and clap and say **'Jesus gives me joy!'** Here we go! **Who gives you joy?'**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: *(Cheer and clap.)* **"Jesus gives me joy!"**

STORYTELLER: "Louder! **Who gives you joy?'**"



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CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus gives me joy!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! **Jesus gives me joy!** Yay, Jesus! Thank you for celebrating the good news about Jesus with me.

[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, Jesus gives us so much joy! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. Jesus always loves us. And Jesus is getting heaven ready for all of His friends! Thank You for Jesus, God! You're the best! In Jesus' name. Amen."

"I'm going to go tell my friends the good news about Jesus! I'll see you next time! Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: birthday present from Intro

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus wants to be our friend forever and EVER! That means we can have joy forever and EVER!"

"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!"

"This birthday party can't last forever. But being friends with Jesus does! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.