



WEEK
THREE
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. HANDS ON

WHAT YOU NEED: Cut out Letters J, O, Y; and Sticky Hands™

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread the letters on a table. Introduce the letters that spell 'joy.'

BIBLE STORY

I can help my friends have joy.

BE JOYFUL WITH OTHERS
ROMANS 12:15

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Hand each child a Sticky Hands™. Call out the letters, one at a time, in order, and instruct children to slap their sticky hand onto the correct letter. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all these letters. I see the letter 'J,' (point) the letter 'O,' (point) and the letter 'Y.' (Point.) That spells joy!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, I need your help. When I call out a letter, I want you to tap the letter with a sticky hand. (Give each child a sticky hand.) Ready? The first one is the letter 'J.' Can you help me get the 'J'? (Pause.) Awesome! Okay, now use your sticky hands and tap the 'O.' (Pause.) Yay! What about the letter 'Y'? Can you get the 'Y' too? (Pause.) Great job everyone. J-O-Y spells JOY!" (Repeat as desired.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, thank you for helping me. Today in our Bible Story, we'll learn about how we can help our friends have joy!"

MEMORY VERSE

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

LUKE 2:10, ESV

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting: "J-O-Y, joy!"

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



5. FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Friendship Bracelets" and "Friendship Parent Note" Activity Pages, light-colored and white cardstock, paper smoothie straws, pipe cleaners, hole punch, scissors, small bowls, paper plates, resealable bags, and a permanent marker; *Optional: washi tape*

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.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Friendship Bracelets" on light-colored cardstock and cut, two per child. Copy "Friendship Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Punch a hole at the top of the hearts, and place two hearts on each plate. Cut straws into one-inch pieces and place them in the bowls. Tape one end of each pipe cleaner to each child's plate. Write each child's name on their resealable bag. Option: Wrap the ends of the pipe cleaners with washi tape.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to pick a handful of straw pieces and thread them onto their pipe cleaner along with a heart. Help twist the ends together to make a bracelet. Repeat with the other pipe cleaner. Put the bracelets in their bag and send home with the parent note.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over and sit with me at the table. We're going to make something super special today. We're going to make two friendship bracelets—one for you to keep and one for you to give away!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Take a handful of these straw pieces and put them on your plate. Thread them onto your pipe cleaner, and add one heart cutout to each. (Pause.) Your bracelets look so nice! Let me twist the ends so we make your bracelets. (Pause.) Hooray! Put them both into your bag and you can take it home and pick who you want to give your other bracelet to."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible Story, we heard how Paul taught people that Jesus loves us and that can give us joy. Paul said when we love like Jesus, we help our friends have joy. No matter how our friends are feeling—sad or happy, or any other way—we can help them have joy by loving them like Jesus, because Jesus loves us and Jesus gives us joy. Tell me: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.** One more time! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Luke 2:10. Lead the children to clap with joy as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Memory Verse and hand motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list of their friends in the journal.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to clap with joy while we walk to our Small Group spot. Start clapping and follow me! *(Smile and clap as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)* Here we are! Let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* "In our Bible Story today, we learned that we can help our friends have joy by loving them the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us when we're sad. Jesus loves us when we're happy. Jesus gives us joy! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!** Yes, Jesus gives us joy! That's why the good news about Jesus brings great joy, like it says in the Bible verse we are learning. It says, '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. Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.)* Way to go! High fives for everyone! *(Give each child a high five.)*

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal.)* Today, we're going to make a list of our friends. When I say your name, tell me one friend and I will write their name in our journal." *(Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*



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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all our friends' names! (*Hold up journal.*) We can use our list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for teaching us how we can help our friends have joy. Please help (*say each child's name*) help their friends (*read the list the children made*) have joy when they feel sad or happy, by loving them like Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."