



WEEK TWO – JUNE 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Feast of Booths | Deuteronomy 16:13-17*

Bottom Line: *Make a habit of choosing joy*

Memory Verse: *“A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.” – Proverbs 17:22*

Virtue: *Joy – Choosing to celebrate what God is doing*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice*

Series Overview: Choose joy! This may be a commonly used phrase you’ve heard, but what does it *actually* mean? Joy is more than being excited about the good things that happen to us. Joy is an attitude—a decision to trust God no matter what is going on in our lives. From the very beginning, God had a plan for the world. As we dive into the Bible, we’ll discover God’s plan for us and how God has been at work through it all. When we see and celebrate what God is doing, we can find true joy!

Bottom Line: Make a habit of choosing joy. Whether it’s a birthday party, slumber party, or festive holiday, kids love celebrating with their family and friends! Just as those celebrations are a part of our everyday rhythm, we hope that kids will learn how to find moments of celebration throughout their lives that will help them remember what God has done for them.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Riddles” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Instruct kids to pair up.
- Read the first stanza from the “Riddles” Activity Page to the entire group.
- Direct the kids to quietly chat with their partners to guess the answer.
- Reveal the correct answers.
- Ask which pairs solved the riddle correctly.
- One by one, read each riddle on the “Riddles” Activity Page.

What You Say:

““What do all these riddles have in common? That’s correct! They’re all celebrations! I love celebrations! Do you? What is your favorite type of celebration? (*Invite responses. Share yours.*) [*Transition*] **Let's go to Large Group to hear about how God told the Israelites to celebrate!**”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we see how God set aside times and rhythms for the Israelite people to reflect on and remember everything God had done for them. In **Deuteronomy 16:13-17**, we read about one celebration in particular

called the Feast of Booths. We see in Scripture how God’s people celebrated this feast on several important occasions throughout their history.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Celebrate Your Journey Timeline

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: “Milestone” Activity Page, and opaque bag

What You Do:

- Place all of the cards from the “Milestone” Activity Page in the bag.
- Choose one kid to reach in the bag and remove one of the cards from the “Milestone” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kid who chose the card to discreetly look at the picture and text on the card.
- Invite the kid to stand in the front of the group and act out the milestone depicted on their card.
- Encourage the rest of the group to guess the milestone.
- Once the kids correctly guess, ask anyone from the group to share a brief story or memory related to that milestone (if they have one).
- Repeat so that each kid gets a turn to choose and act out one of the cards.

What You Say:

“Great job acting out and guessing all those things! Does anyone realize what all of those cards had in common? (Invite responses.) They represent different milestones we’ve learned to do, or maybe are still waiting to learn to do. I’m impressed with all the amazing things you’ve learned to do!”

“But let’s be real—learning some of these things were more difficult than others, right? Did anyone run into some challenges or setbacks along the way? (Invite responses.) How did you conquer those obstacles? (Invite responses.)”

“When you’re in the middle of learning something new and it feels like you’re struggling, it’s not always easy to feel joyful, right? But guess what? That’s when we can remember to celebrate along the way. We’ve already learned and achieved things that we do every day. Just imagine the endless possibilities ahead. As you grow older, you will learn to do so many new things—like driving a car!”

“When we hit the pause button to remember and find joy in all the incredible things God has done and is doing in our lives, it helps us remember that God is always by our side helping us do new things and overcome obstacles. So, let’s [Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy every day.”

Joyful Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, and “Verse Actions” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Proverbs 17:22 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - **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 Proverbs in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.

Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 22 in chapter 17. Choose a kid who would like to read the verse aloud.

- Read through the verse a few times together as a group.
- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Give each pair a card from the “Verse Actions” Activity Page.
 - If there are more kids than cards, do groups of three instead of pairs of two.
- Instruct the pairs to practice reciting the verse using the celebration directions on their card.
 - Allow the kids to use their Bibles to remember the verse as they are practicing their celebration directions.
- After kids have finished practicing, invite the pairs to take turns reciting the verse in front of the group with the celebration direction on their card.
 - Allow the pairs to use their Bibles if needed.
- After each pair reads the verse in the celebratory way, invite the rest of the group to echo the verse and actions that they just observed.
- Repeat until each pair has reviewed the verse.

What You Say:

*“That was amazing! King Solomon, the author of this verse, was telling us that being happy is like good medicine for our hearts. It means when we choose to be joyful, it can make us feel better inside. So, when we **[Bottom Line]** make a habit of choosing joy, it’s like taking good medicine for our hearts every day!”*

As adults arrive to pick up the kids, encourage the kids to share the Memory Verse in the style of one of the celebration directions from earlier.