



## WEEK FOUR – JUNE 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Joy in the Psalms | Psalms 8, 16 + 19*

**Bottom Line:** *Find joy in what you see around you*

**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:** **Find joy in what you see around you.** God has given us the amazing ability to use our senses so we can find joy through the beauty of God’s creation. When kids tap into these senses, they can discover God in a whole new way. Even if not all of our senses work perfectly, we can find ways to see how God is at work in the world around us.

---

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

---

### Opening Small Group Activity

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Five Senses Go Fish Cards” Activity Pages

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Encourage the kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Draw a large face on the butcher paper with a nose, mouth, and ears.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Instruct them to put on a blindfold.
- Give the kid two sticky dots to hold (“eyes”)—one in their right hand and one in their left hand.
- Tell them to stick the eyes where they think they belong on the face on the paper when blindfolded.
- Write the kid’s name on the dots when they finish.
  - If the dots are too small, distinguish the dots by colors or initials.
- Repeat with each kid—drawing additional faces if more room is needed.
- When done, take a moment to celebrate everyone’s creation!

### What You Say:

“Let’s go to Large Group and hear about how our senses can be connected with our joy.”

---

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

---

**Large Group Overview:** For Week 4, we take a look at some of David’s Psalms— specifically, Psalms 8, 16, and 19. David wrote a lot about the things he observed in nature and the world around him that God had created. Through creation, we notice how God is at work—even if sometimes we struggle to see God’s work in our own lives. Joy is all around us. We just have to look.

---

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

---

**Joyful Introductions**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Nametags; Markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a nametag and a marker.
- Instruct each kid to write their name on the tag.
- Encourage the kids to add a small drawing or symbol that represents something unique or joyful about themselves.
  - For example: a smiley face, a heart, or a symbol that represents a favorite activity.
- Once everyone has their nametag on, instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Going around the circle, ask each kid to introduce themselves, share their name, and briefly explain the symbol or drawing on their nametag.
- After you’ve gone around the circle, choose one kid in the circle to name one of the symbols someone else in the circle has.

- Ask the kid who has that symbol one of the review questions below.
- Repeat until all questions have been answered.
  - What book of the Bible did we hear about today? (*Psalms*)
  - Who wrote about half of the book of Psalms? (*David*)
  - When David was a shepherd, what are some of the things he noticed around him from God’s creation? (*heavens, moon, stars, sky, sun*)
  - What are the five senses we can use to find joy? (*sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell*)
  - Why did David find joy and wonder in the people around him? (*God made us each unique; we can care for what God made in different ways*)

### **What You Say:**

*“It was so fun to learn more about each other! Just like David found joy in the incredible creation and people around him, we can find joy in God’s creativity shown in each other’s amazing uniqueness too. David saw how special and wonderful everyone was.*

*“Who is someone in your life who is special to you? Why are they special? (Invite responses.) They bring joy to your life! And guess what? You’re all part of that wonderful creation too! So no matter what is happening in our lives, we can look around, take it all in, and be reminded that God is good and wants us to find joy in the things around us. When we’re following Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us pay attention and find joyful moments. When you **[Bottom Line]** find joy in what you see around you, it’s like opening a gift from God.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share with the group how you find joy in the things around you. Maybe you take walks and enjoy God’s creation, enjoy hearing people’s stories and getting to know them, or maybe reading the book of Psalms and learning about how amazing God is.)*

### **Joyful Parade**

**[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bibles, and party supplies

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- Invite any volunteers who would like to read the verse out loud to the group to take turns doing so.
- After reciting the verse a few times, hand out the party supplies.
- Lead the kids to do a joy parade around the group space using the party supplies while reciting the verse.

**What You Say:**

*“That was an absolute blast! Did you know that we’re not just having fun parading around, we’re actually practicing our verse? David, the joy expert, found happiness in the unique and beautiful things he saw every day. And guess what? We can too! We can also read the book of Psalms—it’s like a joy booster! Feeling joy isn’t just awesome; it’s like getting a strong dose of medicine for our hearts and bodies—keeping us super-healthy! So let’s **[Bottom Line]** find joy in what you see around you.”*