



WEEK TWO – JUNE 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: “Healthy and Unhealthy Habits” Activity Page, and prepared half sheets of paper

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Set the prepared half sheets (with a check mark and X) on either side of your small group area.
- Shuffle and set out the cards from the “Healthy and Unhealthy Habits” Activity Page face down in the center of the small group area.
- One at a time, instruct a kid to select a card, look at the picture, and decide if it is a healthy habit or unhealthy habit.
- If the habit is healthy, direct the kid to place the card near the check mark page.
- If the habit is unhealthy, direct the kid to place the card near the “X” page.
- Continue until all cards have been categorized.

What You Say:

“Some habits, like brushing your teeth and getting plenty of rest are good. And some, like biting your nails or eating too much candy—well, not so much!

***[Transition]* Today, we’re going to talk about one habit that’s ALWAYS helpful.”**

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

Booth Builders

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Construction paper, craft sticks, glue sticks, and markers

What You Do:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper and a few craft sticks.
- Set out the glue sticks and markers.
- Encourage the kids to arrange the craft sticks flat on the construction paper to resemble the shape of a shelter.
 - This can be a simple rectangle, square, or other similar structure.
- Once the kids have figured out how to arrange their craft sticks, instruct them to use the glue sticks to secure them to the paper.
- As the kids finish the outside structure with the craft sticks, instruct them to use the markers to draw their favorite party foods inside the structure.
- As they’re working, review the following points from the Bible Story.

- God told the Israelites to hold celebrations to remember what God had done for them, including a special festival called the Feast of Booths! They celebrated that God had provided crops/food to eat.
 - People would build temporary shelters or booths, and camped out, sharing meals together.
 - When Jesus came along, people had been celebrating the Feast of Booths for generations. Then Jesus came to be living water—to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever.
 - God wants us to make it a habit to stop and celebrate what God has done.
- As the kids finish, encourage the kids to share their “booths” with each other and point out their party foods.
 - Make sure each kid’s name is on their creation and set aside for pick up. (Help with writing as needed.)

What You Say:

“The Feast of Booths was a way for God’s people to stop once a year and take time to celebrate all that God had done. It was a way for them to build the habit of finding joy because God is with us and provides for us! God wanted the Israelites to celebrate and God wants us to celebrate too!”

“When Jesus came along, He made a way not just for our physical needs—like food and shelter—to be met, but He took care of our spiritual needs too! He made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. God has done great things for us!”

*“The truth is, we won’t always feel joyful. But when we stop and make it a habit to celebrate and be grateful for all that God has done, we WILL find joy. God has done so much for us, including sending Jesus! God loves us deeply so no matter what happens, we can **[Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy.**”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Tell the kids about one habit you have in place to help you find joy and remember all that God has done for you. Maybe you spend time with God each morning, maybe you listen to worship music in the car on the way to*

work, maybe you pray each evening and thank God for blessings from that day. Try to give kids a concrete example of a simple habit you've put in place to help you celebrate all that God has done.)

Duck, Duck, Jump “UP!”

[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: Bible

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Proverbs 17:22.
- Read the verse aloud and lead the kids to repeat each line of the verse after you.
- Talk about the second part of the verse.
- Say: “A cheerful heart—a person who looks for joy in every situation can make you stronger and healthier. Looking for and finding joy can help you feel better!”
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Select a volunteer to go first.
- Recite the verse and lead kids to repeat the words of the verse as the volunteer taps their heads around the circle.
- When you get to the “up,” instruct the kid whose head was tapped to jump up and chase the volunteer around the circle to reach the seat first.
- Repeat until you've allowed every kid to be “it” and you've reviewed the Memory Verse several times.

What You Say:

*“That was so fun! Healthy habits, like getting plenty of sleep and eating the right foods, can make us stronger. Our Memory Verse teaches us that a cheerful heart—a heart that looks for joy in all situations—makes us healthier and stronger too. That's why it's important to **[Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Remind kids that one way to **[Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy** is by choosing to be grateful.
- Invite the kids to take turns sharing one thing that they're thankful for.
 - Make sure you share an example too.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“When we make time to stop and say, ‘thank You, God,’ it helps us remember that all things we’re thankful for come from God because God cares for us. Let’s pray and thank God for everything so we can **[Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy.**”*

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and making a way for our lives to be filled with joy no matter what happens. We have so many things to be thankful for. Help us to remember to take time to celebrate all the good things in our lives, including the most joyful news of all—Jesus. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their booth creations and talk about how just like the Israelites, we can **[Bottom Line] make a habit of choosing joy.**