



WEEK FOUR – JUNE 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Review the five senses with the kids: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste.
- Shuffle the deck of cards from the “Five Senses Go Fish Cards” Activity Page.
- Give each kid five cards from the deck.
- Instruct the kids not to show their cards to anyone.
- Share that the goal of the game is to make as many matches as possible.
 - Explain that a match is two of the same sense cards.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Instruct the first kid to ask another kid if they have a specific card.
- If the second kid has the requested card, instruct that kid to hand it over to the kid who asked.
- Direct the kid with the match to place it on the floor in front of them.
- If a match is made, instruct the kid who made the match to go again.
- If the kid does not have a matching card, instruct them to draw a card and place any matches made in front of them.
- Direct the next kid in the circle to go next.
- Play until each kid no longer has cards.
- The kid with the most matches in front of them, wins!
 - *NOTE: Split the group in half if needed to speed up the game.*
- If time allows, shuffle cards and play again.
- Collect all the cards for Five Senses Story Review activity.

- *Optional: If time allows, ask kids to help you sort all of the cards into separate piles for each sense.*

What You Say:

“That was SO fun! You did a great job finding matches for each of our five senses. God gave us different abilities to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell! Which sense is your favorite? (*Invite responses.*) **[Transition] You gave some great answers! But I wonder what our five senses have to do with joy. Let’s go find out!**”

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

Five Senses Story Review

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Five Senses Go Fish Cards,” dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, dry-erase eraser, and a marked Bible

What You Do:

- Give each kid five cards from the “Five Senses Go Fish Cards” so every kid has one card for each of the five senses: sight, hear, touch, taste, and smell.
- Read each passage aloud from the marked Bible.
- For each passage from the Bible, encourage the kids to hold up the sense they hear from the reading.
 - Paraphrase parts of each passage after reading it to call attention to what sense the verse is getting at. It’s possible more than one sense may be identified.
- After the Scriptures have been read, use the dry-erase board to draw different things God has given us to enjoy (suggestions below).
- Invite kids to identify which sense the drawing relates to by holding up one of their cards.
- Drawing suggestions:
 - Sight: a rainbow, the sun
 - Taste: a cookie, a banana, an ice cream cone
 - Touch: a teddy bear, falling rain or snow
 - Hear: a music note, a quote bubble that reads, “I love you.”
 - Smell: a flower, a bottle of perfume

What You Say:

“God has given us a beautiful world with so many things to enjoy. David paid close attention to the amazing things and people that God created. We can use our senses to [Bottom Line] find joy in what you see around you. Let’s pay attention this week when we hear the sound of a baby laughing, when we see a beautiful sunset, when we feel our favorite blanket, when we smell a yummy dessert, or when we taste our favorite pizza! There are so many wonderful things all around us that bring us joy! We just need to pay attention and stop to thank God for all that God has given us.”

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time this week when you found joy in what you saw around you. It could be the sound of your child calling your name, the sight of a gorgeous sunrise, a splash in the cool water of a swimming pool on a hot day, a hug from a friend, etc.)

Pass It On Memory Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22; heart plush

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Proverbs 17:22.
- Read the verse aloud and invite the kids to say the verse with you.
- Talk about the last part of the verse.
- Say: “A person who misses out on joy has a broken spirit that ‘dries up’ that person. It leaves them feeling sad and worried. When we understand that God loves us and wants to bring us joy, we will feel strong, happy, and healthy! But when we forget that God is with us and that God cares for us, we may feel sad, broken, or missing something.”
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the heart cutout.
- Instruct that kid to pass the heart cutout around the circle as you repeat the words of the verse.
- After you’ve said the verse a couple of times, encourage the kids to say the verse as they pass the heart cutout around the circle.
- See how quickly the kids can pass the heart as they repeat the verse.
- Change the direction the kids are reciting the verse and passing the heart cutout each round.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

*“We have SO many things around us that bring us joy. From people who give us the best hugs, to ladybugs that land on our fingers, to sprinklers we can run through on a hot day. But the KEY to finding joy is to look for it! Let’s remember that a cheerful heart makes us healthy! So this week, let’s take time to **[Bottom***

Line] find joy in what you see around you. And as you're enjoying that person or thing that brings you joy, be sure to stop and tell God 'thank You' for it!"