



WEEK FOUR – JUNE 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Joy in the Psalms | Ezra 3:10-13*

Key Question: *Who can have joy all the time?*

Bottom Line: *I can have joy all the time*

Memory Verse: *“I will always love you.” Jeremiah 31:3 CEV*

Basic Truth: *God loves me*

Series Overview: This month, we are going to start a party that celebrates the Good News about God! And when God is at the center of our celebration, **I can have joy all the time!** It doesn't sound possible, at first, but then when we think about God . . . who God is . . . what God has done . . . how much God loves us . . . well, that is worth celebrating! God is worth celebrating! All day, every day! So let's **Start The Party!** It's time to celebrate the Good News about God.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Inflatable Globe Beach Ball

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two lines facing each other, about two feet apart.
- Stand on one end of the lines with the globe beach ball.
- Encourage the children to pass the ball back and forth down the lines.
- When you get to the end of the line, ask a child to name something that gives them joy.
- Lead everyone to cheer, then start again.
- Continue until every child has a turn to answer.
- Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

“Friends, let’s get into two lines facing each other. (Help position children in two lines with approximately two feet between the two lines.) We are going to play a game passing this ball back and forth down the line.”

“Ready? Pass the ball! (Help direct who the ball is tossed to.) You are doing great! Keep going! (Pause.) Yay! Great job! [Child’s name], what’s something that gives you joy? (Pause.) Wow! Thank you for sharing! Let’s play again! (Continue with each child and repeat as desired.) You named lots of wonderful things that give us joy.”

“Did you know that God can give us joy all the time? It’s true. We’ll hear more about that in our Bible Story today. Come with me.”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP

Story Focus: I can have joy when I see what God has made. King David loved God, and he liked to write songs to God. One time he wrote a song because everywhere he looked he saw things God made that gave him joy. We can look around and see what God has made too. And we can have joy all the time too!

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

Songwriting

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Butcher paper; black marker

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather the children around the butcher paper.
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Explain to the children that you're going to work together to write a song of praise just like King David wrote to God.
 - Draw two vertical lines down the page to create three columns on the page.
 - In the first column, lead the children to name things that are true about God. (God loves us, God made us, God gave us Jesus, etc.) In the second column, lead the children to name things God made that they love (flowers, the ocean, the sunset, etc.).
 - In the last column, lead the children to name people God gave us who we love (mom, dad, brother, sister, grandmother, friend, etc.).

- Lead the children to sing a song using the words from each column as you sing. Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” or make up your own tune.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bible Story + Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come gather around the paper with me!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “In our Bible Story, we learned about King David. King David wrote songs to God about all the things God made and I thought it would be fun for us to write a song together! I want you to give me some answers to write on our paper, and then we can use these words in our song!
 - In this column, let’s write down some things that are true about God. (*Write down their answers.*) In the second column, let’s name some things God made that you love. I’ll write your answers here in the second column. (*Write down their answers.*) In the last column, let’s name some people who God gave us who we love. (*Write down their answers.*)
 - *Let’s sing our song together:*
 - *Thank You, God, for [phrase/word from first column].*
 - *Thank You, God, for [phrase/word from first column].*
 - *For the [phrase from second column], [phrase from second column], and [phrase from second column]. For the [phrase from third column], [phrase from third column], and [phrase from third column].*
 - *Thank You, God!*
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “King David wrote songs because everywhere he looked, he saw things God made that gave him joy! Just like David, we can look around and see what God has made and we can have joy, all the time!

I love the song you wrote, and I love worshipping and praising God with you because of the joy He gives us! **Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!**”

Journal + Prayer

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Memory Verse Card” Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

- Encourage the children to pretend to be any animal they want to be as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
- Sit down and gather the children around you.
- Review the Memory Verse and hand motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things God made.
- 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 pretend to be animals. Think about what animal you want to be. Maybe a lion or a bunny rabbit or a bird flying through the air! I’m going to pretend to be a (name your animal). Now you choose what you want to be and follow me to our Small Group spot! (*Pretend to be an animal as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! Now I need all of you animals to be boys and girls again so we can sit down and 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, King David loved God. And he liked to write songs to God. One time he wrote a song because everywhere he looked he saw things God made that gave him joy. When King David saw the sun, he

thought of God and had joy! When King David saw the stars, he thought of God and had joy! When King David saw people, he thought of God and had joy! Do you know what that means? We can have joy when we see what God has made too! And since we can see what God has made all the time, we can have joy all the time! **Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!** Yay! (Clap.) *All of this talk about joy makes me want to say the Bible verse we've been learning. It says, 'A joyful (brush flat hands upward twice) heart (tap chest twice with fingertip) is good medicine,' (move flat hand from chin to palm) Proverbs 17:22. (Open hands like a book.) Wow! Joy is like good medicine that makes you feel better! Stand up with me and let's say our Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A joyful (brush flat hands upward twice) heart (tap chest twice with fingertip) is good medicine,' (move flat hand from chin to palm) Proverbs 17:22. (Open hands like a book.) Hearing you say that Bible verse gives me joy! (Give high fives.) 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 things God has made, because we can have joy when we see the things God has made! When I say your name, tell me one thing God has made and I will write it in our journal.' (Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Look at all of the things God has made! (Hold up journal.) Let's pray and celebrate God together! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, You are amazing! No one can make things like You can. You made the whole world and everything in it! Thank You for making (read the list the children made). Help us think of You and have joy every time we see the things You have made. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen.”