



WEEK TWO – JULY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Wedding at Cana | John 2:1-11*

Bottom Line: *Jesus showed us how to have joy*

Memory Verse: *“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!” – Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)*

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

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

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: **Jesus showed us how to have joy.** Not only did Jesus heal and teach crowds of people, but he also knew how to celebrate! We hope that kids will remember that when it comes to joy, they can look to Jesus for the best example.

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: Sticky Notes

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- As kids arrive, ask them to name a party supply, decoration, or party-related item.
- When enough kids have gathered, give each one 3-5 sticky notes.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to write or draw one party supply on each sticky note.
- Invite kids to share their favorite sticky note with the rest of the group.

What You Say:

“We need lots of supplies to throw a good party! *[Transition]* **Today in Large Group, we’ll hear about what Jesus did when a very important party supply was missing.**”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we see Jesus’ first recorded miracle found in John 2:1-11. Everyone was laughing, talking, and having a good time until...the wine ran out! Jesus knew the importance of celebrating and how it would impact that family to run out of wine when the celebrations weren’t done yet. So Jesus did something about it, which allowed the party to keep going.

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

Everyday Joy

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Everyday Joy” Activity Pages, colored pencils or crayons, and stapler

What You Do:

- Give each kid a set of the “Everyday Joy” Activity Pages.
- Say: “We’re going to be creating a journal that will help you share joy in the ordinary, everyday moments!”
- Help kids assemble the six pages from the “Everyday Joy” Activity Pages in order and staple the sides like a booklet.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Direct kids to color the front of their book.
- Once kids finish coloring, invite them to turn to page one of their journal, read through it together, and give them some time to complete it.

What You Say:

“You can use these journals throughout the week to remember to celebrate the joy that God gives us— even in the ordinary, everyday moments. Let’s look at the next few pages together. (Direct kids to flip through the pages as you talk through the pages.) Does anyone want to share one thing that brings them joy? (Invite responses.) Can anyone share how God is working in their joy? (Invite responses.)

“This Everyday Joy Journal will be a great tool for us this week! Sometimes it’s not easy to find something to celebrate, right? Maybe we’re having a tough week or our day just isn’t going how we planned. But, if we take a few moments each

day this week to think about how God is with us, it can help us choose joy no matter what we're facing. After that, we can show others how to find joy too!

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you found something to celebrate even when it was hard.) "Remember, friends, [Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to have joy. Whatever we're going through, we can trust that Jesus is at work doing something good and sharing His overflowing joy with everyone around us."

I Will Say It Again

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; dot stickers; paper; markers

What You Do:

- Divide kids into teams of 3-4 kids.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Direct each team to look up the Memory Verse 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 Philippians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 4.
- Give each team a sheet of dot stickers, a piece of paper, and a marker.

- Instruct each team to stick 17 dot stickers for the NIrV onto their paper in any form or shape they want.
- Direct the kids on each team to write each word of the Memory Verse onto a sticker in order.
 - 17 stickers means one sticker for each word of the Memory Verse in the NIrV, and one for the reference.
- Encourage the teams to spend some time trying to memorize the verse.
- After some time, challenge the kids on each team to put a blank dot sticker on top of a few words and see if they can still recite the verse.
- Instruct the kids on each team to continue challenging themselves by placing blank stickers on top of the Memory Verse words until they can recite the verse in its entirety!

What You Say:

*“Some things are worth repeating! And this Memory Verse is for sure worth repeating! It even says so in the verse. “I will say it again!” (Philippians 4:4). Knowing these truths from the Bible is important in helping us choose joy in our everyday lives. It helps us discover that **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to have joy.** When you’re stumped and just can’t seem to find something to celebrate, you can always flip open God’s Word to remember what God has done.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show off their Everyday Joy Journals.