



## WEEK THREE – JULY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Be Joyful with Others* / Romans 12:15; Acts 2:42-47

**Bottom Line:** *You can help others find 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 should treat others the way I want to be treated*

**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: You can help others find joy.** Can you think of a time when you went through something difficult, but someone was there for you during that? What about when you received the best news ever? During the ups and downs, knowing someone was there for you helped to make that situation so much better. The same is true the other way around. We have a chance to be there for others and help them experience joy too.

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

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### Opening Small Group Activity

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- When enough kids have arrived, ask the group “Would You Rather” questions.
  - If their answer is A, instruct the kids to run to one color of party hats and put one on.
  - If their answer is B, instruct the kids to run to the other color of party hat and put one on.
- One at a time, ask the questions below.
- If time allows, invite kids to come up with party-related “Would You Rather” questions.
  - A) Have a three-tiered cake of your second favorite flavor, or B) have a small cake of your favorite flavor?
  - A) Have a huge party with all of your friends, or B) have a small party with a few close friends and family?
  - A) Get lots of small presents on your birthday, or B) get one really big present?
  - A) Have a party at home, or B) have a party somewhere else?
  - A) Have a pajama party, or B) have a party where everyone dresses up fancy?
  - A) Have a party with super-fancy dinner and drinks, or B) eat pizza?
  - A) Have a specific-themed party, or B) just have traditional decorations?

- A) Play party games, or B) play video games?

**What You Say:**

**“Today in Large Group, we’re going to learn about how we can help others find something we should never live without!”**

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

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**Large Group Overview:** For Week 3, we head to Romans 12:15. Paul wrote to the church in Rome about what true love looked like. Part of sharing the love of Jesus means showing empathy and being sad with others who were sad or joyful with others who were joyful. When we do that, we can help others to see not only our love, but the love of Jesus too.

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

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**Stand In My Shoes**

**[Live For God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** “Stand in My Shoes” Activity Page, and pens

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Stand in My Shoes” Activity Page and a pen.
- Say: “We’re going to work with a partner to get to know each other better and to practice empathy.”
- Instruct the kids to find a partner.

- If there is an uneven number of kids, form a group of three.
- Direct the kids to take turns asking their partner the questions on the “Stand in My Shoes” Activity Page and writing down their partner’s responses.
  - Encourage them to take this time to get to know each other better.
- Say: “*Empathy* is like standing in someone else’s shoes—it’s being happy or sad with others, depending on how the person is feeling.”
- If time allows, give your group a few minutes to pray for their partners (silently or aloud) based on what they shared.

**What You Say:**

*“You never know what someone is walking through. It’s important to keep in mind that **[Bottom Line]** you can help others find joy. When we follow in Jesus’ footsteps, we can learn to see and respond like Jesus did. When you’re not sure what to do, ask God to help you choose empathy and help someone else find joy.”*  
**[Make It Personal]** (Share about a time you showed empathy and helped someone find 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:**

- Encourage kids to think about their partner from the In My Shoes Activity.
- While you pray, instruct the kids to silently say the name of this friend to themselves each time you say, “my friend.”

**What You Say:**

*““God, thank You for my friend. Only You know what my friend is facing and what my friend needs each and every day to experience the joy that is offered in Jesus. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit to help me understand how to show love and joy to my friend. I know **[Bottom Line]** you can help others find joy. Help me be*

*an encouragement to them and know how to pray for them this week. Thank You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today's Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] you can help others find joy.***