



WEEK FOUR – JULY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Heaven / Revelation 21; 22:1-5*

Bottom Line: *Celebrate what God will do*

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: Celebrate what God will do. When you look at life through current situations, it may be harder to find joy and celebrate, especially if you don’t see a way out. Whenever we focus on the things that God has already done for us however, it can help us remember all that God can do and will do in our lives. Now that’s something to celebrate!

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: Poster board, markers, glue sticks, scissors, prepared plastic grocery bags, and “Party Poster” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Encourage each team to sit together.
- Instruct each team to come up with a team name.
- Give each team poster board, markers, glue sticks, and scissors.
- Ask: “Do you know what a tailgate party is?” (*It’s a celebration before a celebration—like grilling food before a sports game or listening to music before a concert. A tailgate is usually outdoors.*)
- Set a bag of the “Party Poster” Activity Pages across from each team.
- Instruct each team to take turns sending one kid at a time to run to the bag, take a page of party supplies, and bring it back to the group.
- Once teams have collected all four pages, direct them to work together to design a team tailgate poster—they can cut out as many items from the “Party Poster” Activity Pages and use the markers to decorate.
- Remind them to write their team name on the poster board!

What You Say:

“A tailgate is a celebration before a celebration. It’s choosing to celebrate before you even know how the event is going to be. It’s choosing joy because you just love having fun rooting on your team, singing along at a concert, or getting ready with others for some other celebration. *[Transition]* **Today in Large Group, we’re going to discover what else we can celebrate before it happens.**”

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

Large Group Overview: We wrap up the month with the biggest celebration ever in Revelation 21, 22:1-5. John received visions from God about all the things that would one day come, some of which was easier to understand than others. However, John did write that one day there will be no more pain and sadness, and that God will live with us forever.

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

The Messy Middle

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Poster board; markers; tape; blindfold; various craft supplies

What You Do:

- Hang a poster board in two different areas of your group space.
 - If using tape to hang the poster boards is not possible, set them out on the floor in two different areas.
- Divide kids into two teams.
- Assign each team a poster board.
- Instruct the kids to line up in front of their team's poster board.
- Direct each team to choose one kid to blindfold.
- Give that kid a marker and instruct them to scribble on their team's poster board.

- After their team member has scribbled, direct the teams to work together to use their imaginations to turn their team's scribble mess into a work of art using any extra craft supplies they wish.
- Invite each team to show off their masterpiece when finished!

What You Say:

*“There will be times in life when it feels like a confusing scribble of a mess. When we wonder how any good can come out of something so messy, when we're living in the messy middle, we can **[Bottom Line]** celebrate what God will do.*

“This world is broken. We all experience difficult things. But when we follow Jesus, we KNOW that this is not the end. What God will do is way bigger and better than our imaginations can even fathom. That's saying a lot because you all have some pretty incredible imaginations. We can focus on what God is doing now, and what God will do when we get to live forever with Jesus. Those are the very best reasons to celebrate.”

***[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate story about a time when you couldn't see any good coming from a messy situation, but God made it into something good.)*

Be Kind Rewind

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page, markers, and various craft supplies

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse (Philippians 4:4) 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.
- Invite anyone who would like to read the verse aloud.
- Give each kid a “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and various craft supplies.
- Direct the kids to copy the Memory Verse onto the blank section of the “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page, near the verse reference.
- Once completed, set out the craft supplies.
- Instruct the kids to decorate the boombox on the “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page.
- See if anyone would like to try to recite the Memory Verse from memory.

What You Say:

*“What does it mean to rewind? (Invite responses.) Some things are worth repeating again and again. As followers of Jesus, we can remind ourselves of God’s truths over and over again and **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God will do.** You can Start the Party! When you aren’t feeling so joy-filled, remind yourself that God created you to be a living celebration to the world! When you see someone who needs a boost of joy, remind them that we can trust God.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page and prompt them to read their Memory Verse!