



WEEK TWO – JULY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: Party items; tray; towel

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Show kids the tray with the party items.
- Help the kids to name each item.
- Cover the items with the towel and guide kids to close and cover their eyes.
- While their eyes are closed, choose one kid to quietly open their eyes to remove and hide one item.
- Invite the other kids to open their eyes.
- Give them a few seconds to silently look at the tray and figure out which item is missing.
- Ask the kids to identify the missing item.
- Repeat as time allows.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job figuring out what was missing! *[Transition]* **In Large Group, we’ll hear about a time Jesus went to a party, and something VERY IMPORTANT went missing! Let’s go find out more.**”

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

Celebrate What God Is Doing

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Celebrate What God Is Doing” Activity Pages, wall or floor tape

What You Do:

- Use the wall tape to hang the four pictures from the “Celebrate What God Is Doing” Activity Pages in four different parts of your group space.
 - If hanging up is not possible, secure the pictures to four different areas on the floor.
- Start the music.
- Instruct the kids to dance around the group space as the music plays.
 - Add fun by encouraging the kids to dance like robots, giants, fish, or another fun way.
- When the music stops, encourage the kids to immediately move to stand near one of the four pictures from the “Celebrate What God Is Doing” Activity Page.
- After the kids have moved to a picture, call out a number from one to four.
- Choose a kid standing by that number's picture who would like to describe the scenario.
 - Encourage kids to think of a way they could share joy in that scenario.
- Restart the music, inviting kids to dance again, and repeat with each scenario.

- Vary the amount of time the music is played for each round.
- After reviewing the four scenarios pictured, ask kids to come up with their own scenario where they could share joy with a friend or family during an everyday situation.
 - Ask prompting questions, if needed, like:
 - “Could you share joy when you finish your chores?”
 - “Could you share joy when your little brother or sister is potty trained?”, etc.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

“You guys had some great ideas for how you can celebrate and share joy in the ordinary, everyday things! You can share joy when you or someone you know learns how to ride a bike, jumps off the diving board for the first time, or reads their first book.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids either one way you plan to share joy during an ordinary, everyday moment this week, or tell about a time someone did that for you and how it made you feel.)

“Jesus showed us that it’s important to find joy by celebrating with family and friends. [Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to have 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:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to close your group time with prayer.

What You Say:

*“The thing to remember today is this: **[Bottom Line]** Jesus showed us how to have joy. Jesus valued celebration because it brings people joy! So this week, remember to celebrate the ordinary, everyday things. Because celebrating with family and friends can bring so much joy to your day! Let’s pray.*

“Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how to have joy. And thank You for showing us that it’s important to SHARE joy with our family and friends. This week, help us share joy in the little things. And help us choose to celebrate YOU. We love You SO MUCH, Jesus! It’s in Your name we pray. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell one thing they’ll celebrate this week, whether it’s finishing a chore, learning something new, or some other everyday thing.