



WEEK FOUR – JULY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Ask: “Have you ever had a happy or unusual dream? Would you mind sharing about it?”
- **[Make It Personal] Share an age-appropriate dream with the kids too.**
- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Ask kids to think about a dream and draw it.
 - If they can’t recall a dream, invite them to draw a dream they’d LIKE to have, whether it’s a dream where they can fly, where they’re a superhero who saves a city, or where they ride a unicorn through the clouds.
- **[Make It Personal] Draw your own dream too.**
- If time allows, invite kids to share their drawings.

What You Say:

“Great job drawing those dreams! **[Transition]** In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about a man who was sent to an island and the AMAZING things God showed him in a dream while he was there. Let’s go to Large Group to find out more.”

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

Messy Middle Mingle

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Mirror, Mirror” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Help each kid put on a prepared party hat without them seeing what picture is on their hat.
- Direct the kids to mingle around the group area.
- One at a time, read the story descriptions below.
- After each one, lead the kids to find someone whose picture on their party hat matches the story description and to stand near them. (More than one kid may have the story you’re summarizing.)
 - I’m thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a grandmother gives a girl a red cloak. One day, the girl travels through the woods to visit her grandmother. In the middle of the story, the girl arrives at her grandmother’s house and finds a wolf in bed disguised in her grandmother’s clothes. (**Little Red Riding Hood**)

- I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, three bears take a walk while they wait for their porridge to cool. While they're away, a curious young girl enters their home. In the middle of the story, the girl tastes the bears' porridge, sits in their chairs, lays in their beds, and falls asleep in the smallest one. (**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**)
- I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a boy sells a cow in exchange for magic beans that grow into a giant beanstalk. In the middle of the story, the boy steals a magic goose from a giant, who chases after the boy. (**Jack and the Beanstalk**)
- I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a mother duck's eggs hatch. One duckling looks different, and the other birds and animals on the farm are mean to him. In the middle of the story, the duckling wanders from place to place, trying to find a home and a family. (**The Ugly Duckling**)
- I'm thinking of a story. In the beginning of this story, a young girl who says she is a princess needs a place to stay. In the middle of the story, she is put to the test when a tiny pea is placed underneath a stack of mattresses. (**The Princess and the Pea**)
- I'm thinking of a TRUE, REAL story. One that's happening RIGHT NOW! In the beginning of this story, God created a beautiful, perfect world, but people turned away from God. But God had a plan to fix our relationship. God sent Jesus to live and die in our place and return to life! (**God's Story**)
- After each round, see if kids are able to name the story described (see titles in bold above).

What You Say:

“Many stories have what we might call a messy middle. It’s the part of the story where things could be exciting, scary, and confusing—the part of the story before we know the ending.

“Right now, we’re in the messy middle of GOD’S big story. Bad things happen in the world, and we all experience difficult things. But when we follow Jesus, we know that what’s happening NOW is not the END of the story. 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.”

*“So remember that NO MATTER WHAT is happening, you can always [**Bottom Line**] celebrate what God WILL do! Because in the end, God will make everything right!”*

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 lead kids in a responsive prayer.
- When you cue the kids with a celebratory motion, instruct the kids to say the Bottom Line with you.
 - Tell kids it’s okay for them to pray with their eyes open so they can see your cues.

What You Say:

*“I’m so thankful that God gave John a special vision about Heaven! Because of John’s vision, we have an AMAZING, INCREDIBLE picture of what Heaven is like. And when we remember that the end of God’s story is HEAVEN, we can [**Bottom Line**] CELEBRATE what God will do!”*

“Let’s pray.”

*“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH for Heaven.
[**Bottom Line**] CELEBRATE what God will do.
You will wipe away every tear from our eyes.”*

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

There will be no more death.

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

No more sadness.

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

No more crying or pain.

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

You are making EVERYTHING new!

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

Thank You, Lord, that in Heaven we will SEE YOUR FACE!

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

We will live with You FOREVER!

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

Thank You that the end of Your story is more AMAZING and INCREDIBLE than we can even IMAGINE.

[Bottom Line] CELEBRATE what God will do.

We love You SO MUCH, 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] CELEBRATE what God will do.