



## WEEK TWO – JULY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

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

**Key Question:** *Who gives you joy?*

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus gives me joy.*

**Memory Verse:** *“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” – Luke 2:10 ESV*

**Basic Truth:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

**Series Overview:** No one likes for a party to end, so let’s keep this party going! That means you can keep all of those streamers, hats, and party horns right where they are because we have MORE to celebrate! This month, we’re celebrating Jesus because Jesus gives me joy! We’re not talking about the happiness you get from a carnival ride or a triple scoop of ice cream kind of joy. We’re talking about the joy only Jesus can give! It’s the kind of joy that we can have no matter what. It is a joy that lasts forever! So grab a handful—or two—of confetti. It’s time to start the party . . . AGAIN!

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

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** Colorful parachute; small ball

### What You Do:

- Spread the parachute out in the middle of an open space in the room.
- Ask each child to pick a color and grab that handle.
- Put the ball on the parachute.
- Show children how to gently move the parachute to help the ball roll to a designated color.
  - Continue until all children get a turn to get the ball in front of them.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

- *“Come here, friends! Look at all the beautiful colors on this parachute! Come stand at the color you like and grab the handle. When I call your name, I want you to gently raise your handle. Ready to give it a try? [Child's name], raise your handle. (Pause.) Great! (Continue with each child.) Freeze the parachute and I'll show you what we're going to do. We practiced raising our handles gently, watch what happens when I put the ball on the parachute. (Pause.) Let's try and move the ball to one of the [color] spots. (Guide children to raise their handle.) Good job! Everyone, freeze. We did it! This time, let's try and get it to a [color] spot. (Continue until the ball has been to each child.) Everyone did a great job helping get the ball to each color! That was fun helping each other. In our Bible Story today, we'll hear a story about how Jesus helps people have joy. Let's go hear all about it.”*

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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**Story Focus: Jesus helps us have joy.** While Jesus, His mom Mary and His disciples are guests at a wedding, the servants run out of the special wedding drink. Jesus’ mom went right to the one person she knew could help— Jesus! Jesus did something only He can do and turned six huge jars of water into the special wedding drink. Now, everyone could continue celebrating the bride and groom. Jesus gave the people at the wedding joy, and Jesus can give us joy too.

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

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**Story Jars**

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

*Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts*

**What You Need:** “Story Jar Cards,” “Story Jar Parent Note,” and “Story Jar Stickers” Activity Pages; cardstock; Avery® Labels #5163 or equivalent; scissors; sandwich-size resealable bags; and a permanent marker

**What You Do:**

- Write each child’s name on their sticker.
- Place a parent note in each bag.
- Ask children to place a sticker on their bag.
- Give each child a set of “Story Jar Cards.”
  - As you review each card, hold it up and encourage children to find their card that matches.
- Ask children to lay out their cards in front of them as you go through them.
- After you review, help children put their cards into their bag and set aside.
- Review the Bottom Line.

**What You Say:**

- **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**
  - “Come sit with me! Let’s play a matching game with these story cards.” (*Hold up a set of story cards.*)
- **DURING THE ACTIVITY**
  - “First, put this sticker on your bag. (*Pause.*) This bag will hold your story cards after we review. (*Give each child a set of cards.*) Now let’s play the game! When I hold up a story card, look through your cards and find the matching one and hold it up. Here we go! (*Hold up the bride and groom card.*) Find the match and hold it up. A bride and groom had a party to celebrate their wedding. Now lay that card in front of you. The next card is Jesus! (*Hold up the Jesus, disciples, and Mary card.*) Jesus was at the party with His friends, the disciples, and His mother, Mary. Lay that card next to the bride and groom. The next card to look for is a table with lots of yummy food and drinks. (*Hold up the table card.*) There was a lot of special food and special wedding drink. Put that card next to Jesus. (*Hold up the cup card.*) Oh, no! They ran out of the special wedding drink. Put the cup card next to the table card. This next card shows Mary talking with Jesus. (*Hold up the Mary and Jesus card.*) Mary knew Jesus was God’s Son so she asked Jesus to help. Put that card down. Our last card (*hold up the last card*) shows a lot of people. There’s Jesus, Mary, and the disciples, some workers . . . they’re all happy and smiling because Jesus turned six jars of water into a special wedding drink! Stack all the cards together and put them in your bag.”
- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
  - “We did it! We put our story cards in order! And now you have your very own set of story cards so you can play this game at home. When you play, you can remember that Jesus gives you joy, just like He gave all the people at the wedding joy! **Who gives you joy? [Bottom Line] Jesus gives me joy!**”

**Share the Verse**

## [Hear From God | Memory Verse Review]

*Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** Little People® figures

### **What You Do:**

- Spread Little People® figures out in different places around the room.
- Review the Memory Verse and motions.
- Say the verse with the motions again.
- Then, encourage the children to gather the Little People® figures from around the room and tell them the Memory Verse.
- Review the Bottom Line.

### **What You Say:**

- **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**
  - “Friends, let’s review our Memory Verse and motions together. Ready? ‘I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,’ (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job, friends.”
- **DURING THE ACTIVITY**
  - “Let’s say our verse with the motions again. ‘I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,’ (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) When I say ‘JOY,’ I want you to go look for a Little People figure and bring it back here. Ready? JOY! (*Pause.*) Sit down with me and put your figure in front of you. Now, let’s share our verse with the people. ‘I bring you (*move upward-facing palms to one side*) good news (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) of great joy (*brush flat hands upward twice*) that will be for all the people,’ (*arms out wide*) Luke 2:10. (*Open hands like a book.*) Fantastic!” (*Repeat as desired.*)
- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**

- “God loves us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Who gives you joy? [Bottom Line] Jesus gives me joy!**”