



UPPER ELEMENTARY- JULY

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN JOY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

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!

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

BOTTOM LINE
We can have joy because of Jesus.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
Feast of Booths
Deuteronomy 16:13-17

BOTTOM LINE
Make a habit of choosing joy.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Ezra and the Rebuilding of the Temple
Ezra 3:10-13

BOTTOM LINE
Celebrate each step of the way.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Joy in the Psalms
Psalms 8, 16, and 19

BOTTOM LINE
Find joy in what you see around you.

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STORY
God Will Give Us Joy
Habakkuk 3:17-18

BOTTOM LINE
There's always a reason to celebrate.

MEMORY VERSE

"A CHEERFUL HEART MAKES YOU HEALTHY. BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT DRIES YOU UP." PROVERBS 17:22, NIRV



WEEK
ONE
JULY 2024

UPPER ELEMENTARY
LARGE GROUP

Start the Party—Celebrate the Good News Upper Elementary

Week 1

We start the month in Luke 2:8-20. While shepherds were watching over their flock, an angel suddenly appeared, bringing great news: Jesus was born! The shepherds rushed off to see Him, telling everyone about Him afterward. Everyone who heard the news was amazed and filled with joy!

We kick off the month with a Christmas party! Christmas may feel like the most natural time of year to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we can celebrate Jesus any time of the year! Jesus was a gift that brought joy to everyone who heard the news and can still bring us joy even today.

Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”
Philippians 4:4, NirV

Bible Truth

Shepherds and Angels Luke 2:8-20

Bottom Line

Jesus brings joy to the world.

Small Group

Gift Verse Relay

NOTES:

- All **yellow highlighted text** are cues for visual and audio slides.
- The text in **red** indicates stage directions.

Start the Party -Week 1 Teaching Outline:

Start at 15 after (if service is expected to be about an hour)

1. Intro: Welcome kids, get them excited.
2. Worship
3. Room Expectations
4. Game Time: Hungry Reindeer
5. FATW: Local Partner
6. Intro: Start the Party -Celebrate the Good News
7. Bible Lesson Video: **Shepherds and Angels**
8. Application
 - Weekly Bottom Line: **Jesus brings joy to the world.**
 - Memory Verse: **“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!” Philippians 4:4 NIRV**
 - Prayer
 - Announcements

Lesson Total: 30 minutes

9. Small Groups: 15 minutes

End on the hour



WELCOME 3 minutes

Hi everyone! Welcome to Flatiron Kids! It's a great day for us to sing and give praises to God. Let's all stand up on our feet as we sing our first Worship song together! (**Welcome kids**).

WORSHIP 6-7 minutes

(Encourage kids to worship God through song and dance. Play worship songs).

Show Worship Song: Start the Party

Show Worship Song: Lions

Announcements

Share campus-specific announcements -see your Kids Director for details

ROOM EXPECTATIONS

Show Graphic: Elementary Room Expectations

We want to have all the fun here at Flatiron Kids Ministry! We have a few things that we like to commit to make sure everybody has a good time.

Flatiron Kids Are:

Respectful: We respect everyone and take care of the room and toys we have.

Kind: We treat each other kindly, just like we want to be treated; we go out of our way to be kind to others in the room.

Focused: We listen and follow the leaders in the room and teacher in each activity.

Accountable: None of us are perfect; we will all make mistakes, but we will try our best and choose to change our actions when needed.

Show Graphic: Friends Around the World - Local Partner

We have friends here in the room, in our schools, and in our neighborhoods, but did you know that we have friends all over the world? Here at Flatirons, we do this really cool thing called Friends Around the World. Every month, we learn more about our friends in different places so we can pray for them and give our money to help them with the things they need. Those are both ways to show we love them!

(see printout for local partner info)

If you brought money this week, bring it up now and put it in our Friends Around the World container. (Collect offering.)

Show Song: Friends Around the World - Local Partner

Game Time

OK everyone, if you think about it, the most joyful news of all is that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. And what better way to celebrate than with Christmas in July?

Show Graphic: Game time with Christmas music

So I figure let's celebrate the good news—even if it's a little early! Ha! We'll kick things off with a Christmas party game that I call 'Hungry Reindeer.' I need 2 helpers come join me at the table and stand in front of a plate. **(choose 2 kids or volunteers to the table).**

****Have 2 pre-set stations with a paper plate, two red Solo® cups, and a reindeer antler headband.****

All right, reindeer. Go ahead and put the red cups over your hands like they're your hooves. **(Demonstrate.)** "In just a minute, I'll dump a bunch of marshmallows—I mean reindeer food—on the table. When I say 'go,' you'll try to gather as many marshmallows—I mean REINDEER FOOD—on your plate as you can. You must use your hooves, and you can't slide the pieces of reindeer food onto your plate—you have to pick them up. When all the food is gathered, we'll see who has the most on their plate. That person will be the winner! "Any questions? **(Pause for responses.)** Let's play then! Hooves up, everyone! Three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!

(Dump the marshmallows in the middle of the table. Watch to make sure they aren't just sliding and scooping the marshmallows onto their plates. When all the marshmallows are on the plates, the game is over. If game is taking longer than expected, you can also begin a

10-second countdown and end the game. When the game is over, do a rough count of marshmallows on the kids' plates and award the winner.)

INTRO 1 minute

Show Series Graphic: Start the Party-Celebrate the Good News

Since we're celebrating Christmas in July, what story do you think we're talking about today? (Pause for responses.) Yep! Christmas. The truth is, the story of Jesus' birth can give us joy all the time—and not just during the holidays! The Christmas story reminds us how much God loves us, which is what can give us true, lasting joy no matter what's happening around us.

(Hold up Bible.) When we look at God's Big Story in the Bible (hold up Bible), we see how God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. Abraham's family grew and became a nation called the Israelites. Sadly, the people kept turning away from God. Eventually, they were attacked by other nations. But God still had a good plan!

But God spoke through people called prophets and promised to send a Rescuer. After hundreds of years, when the time was right, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary that she would give birth to God's very own Son, Jesus.

BIBLE TRUTH 10 -12 minutes

Show Video: Video_WK1_SoAndSo

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Graphic: WK1_Bottom Line

Jesus brings joy to the world. When Jesus came into the world, He filled the world with JOY! Jesus is still bringing joy to our world today—and just like the shepherds, we can share that good news with everyone.

When things happen in our lives that don't feel very joyful, we can think about what God did for us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. We can remember that we can trust God no matter what. We can think about the way Jesus lived and the way He showed us how to love the people around us. When we remember that Jesus came to bring love, joy, and forgiveness into the world, we can find lots of opportunities to spread that joy to others.

Memory Verse:**Show Verse:**

Our Memory Verse for this month comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul wanted to remind the believers who lived there to be joyful because of Jesus. Here it is—

Philippians 4:4:

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Philippians 4:4

PRAYER

Let's pray together!

Dear God, thank You for sending JOY into the world when You sent Your Son, Jesus! Jesus brought joy to the world then, and Jesus brings joy to our world today. Help us to carry that joy and share it with others. Please remind us to live with joy, no matter what is happening around us, because we know how much You love us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Get ready to head to Small Group and review today's Bible story!

(Dismiss kids to their small groups).

SMALL GROUPS

(Have kids sit down in a circle, in small groups, with volunteer leaders).

Show Timer: Small Group Countdown