



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
THREE
JULY 2024

UPPER ELEMENTARY
LARGE GROUP

Start the Party—Celebrate the Good News Upper Elementary

Week 3

God View

For week 3, we head to Romans 12:15. Paul wrote to the church in Rome about what true love looked like. Part of sharing the love of Jesus means showing empathy and being sad with others who were sad or joyful with others who were joyful. When we do that, we can help others to see not only our love, but the love of Jesus too. **Bottom Line: You can help others find joy.** Can you think of a time when you went through something difficult, but someone was there for you during that? What about when you received the best news ever? During the ups and downs, knowing someone was there for you helped to make that situation so much better. The same is true the other way around. We have a chance to be there for others and help them experience joy too.

Memory Verse

“A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.”
Philippians 4:4

Bible Truth

Be joyful with others
Romans 12:15, Acts 2:42-47

Bottom Line

You can help others find joy.

Small Group

Stand In My Shoes

NOTES:

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

Start the Party-Week 3 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: This or That Party Edition
5. FATW: Local Partner
6. Intro: Start the Party - Celebrate the Good News
7. Bible Lesson Video : **Be joyful with others**
8. Application
 - Weekly Bottom Line: **We can help others find joy.**
 - Memory Verse: **“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!” Philippians 4:4 NIV**
 - Prayer
 - Announcements

Lesson Total: 30 minutes

9. Small Groups: 15 minutes

End on the hour



WELCOME 3 minutes

Hi everyone! Welcome to Flatiron Kids! I'm so happy to see you today! Together we get to lift our voices. We get to move our bodies as we dance and jump and clap our hands. Our God is incredible and absolutely amazing! This is your time and moment to sing God's praise. Don't hold anything back. Come on! **(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

This summer we've talking all about partying with Jesus. To help us with this, I need a volunteer. Let's play a game I like to call 'This or That: Party Edition!'

Show Slide: "THIS OR THAT: PARTY EDITION"

(Choose a volunteer to come to the stage. Host directs the volunteer to center stage with their back to the audience facing the screen.)

"Welcome, [Name of Volunteer], glad to have your help this morning! On our screen you will see two options. Both will add fun and excitement to any party, but I'd like you to try to pick what you think is the best option. Think carefully because your choice decides the fate of the whole group behind you! The whole group, without you seeing, will pick as well!

(To the Large Group) Everyone hop to your feet! You'll pick which option by pointing left or right, toward the choice on the screen. "If [Name of Volunteer] picks the same as you, you stay in the game! If you pick the opposite, you'll have a seat. Simple, right? Let's get this 'This or That: Party Edition' started!"

Show Slides: This or That 1-7

(Play the game. Go through each slide, having kids who don't pick the same as the volunteer sit down. Continue until you declare a winner and lead applause for the winner and the volunteer.)

Party planning could end up being the hardest job ever—but if I ever need a party planner, I feel confident [Name of Volunteer] would do a spectacular job! One more hand for our volunteer and our winner!

INTRO 1 minute

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

Hello, friends! Today we're looking at the book of Romans (*hold up Bible*) to find something we can do to help other people find joy. This is a really important idea, because we know how good it feels when someone helps US find joy. And like Jesus taught us, **we should treat others the way we want to be treated.**

(*Hold up Bible.*) “The book of Romans was originally a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers who lived in Rome. Paul had never met these Jesus-followers before, but he prayed for them often, and he wanted to visit them. Paul wrote this letter because he wanted to encourage the believers in Rome and help them understand why God had sent Jesus to the world.

In his letter, Paul explained to the Romans that God had sent Jesus to set us free . . . and because of what Jesus has done for us, we can now choose to show God's love to others.

BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes

Show Video: Video_WK3_SoAndSo

APPLICATION 3 minutes

Show Graphic: WK3_Bottom Line

This Bible story reminds us that the more you learn to feel what other people feel, the more you'll be able to show God's love to others, just as Paul encouraged the Romans to do. You can show love in the good times and the tough times. God had sent Jesus to set us free . . . and because of what Jesus has done for us, we can now choose to show God's love to others.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can help others find joy.

Memory Verse:

Show Verse:

I think it's pretty amazing how God created us to live with joy—as we read in our Memory Verse for this month, 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 Paul's reminder that we can help others find joy by loving them well. Please help us to **treat others the way we want to be treated**. Help us pay attention to the people around us . . . to notice what they're going through . . . and really feel what they feel. Thank You for the way You've created us to bring joy to each other's lives—in the good times and in the tough times too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

Let's head to our small groups to keep learning!

(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



Activity Name: Be Kind Rewind

What You Need: “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page, Bibles, markers/crayons, shiny stickers

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 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.

What You Do:

- Together, look up the Memory Verse (Philippians 4:4) using the Bible.
- Invite anyone who would like to read the verse aloud.
- Give each kid a “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and stickers.
- Direct the kids to copy the Memory Verse onto the blank section of the “Be Kind Rewind” Activity Page, near the verse reference.
- 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.

Prayer: Ask a kid to close the group out in prayer.

KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP