



**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



## Start the Party— Celebrate the Good News Upper Elementary

### Week 4

#### God View

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. **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!

#### Memory Verse

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

#### Bible Truth

Heaven  
Revelation 21, 22:1-5

#### Bottom Line

Celebrate what God will do.

#### Small Group

Be Kind Rewind

#### NOTES:

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

Start the Party -Week 4 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. FATW: Local Partner
5. Game Time:
6. Intro: Start the Party - Celebrate the Good News
7. Bible Lesson Video: **Heaven**
8. Application
  - Weekly 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 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 excited to see you here today! We are going to worship God together. Today, let's use everything we have to praise God—our hands, our feet, our words, and our energy . . . but most of all, our hearts.

(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**

Before we get into our Bible story, let's play a game of Would You Rather to get you thinking and moving. Each slide will ask you a crazy question—and all these things really happened in the Bible! When you decide your answer, move to that side of the room. Ready, let's go!

**Show Slide: Would Your Rather- Bible Edition**

**(Teacher read each slide aloud and have kids move to each side of the room depending on their answers)**

Great job!

### **INTRO 1 minute**

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

“Today we'll be looking at the very last book of the Bible, Revelation. (Hold up Bible.) The book of Revelation was originally a letter written by a man named John. John wrote this letter to a group of churches in Asia Minor, which is a part of the world that we know today as Turkey.

The Romans had taken John to live on the Island of Patmos . . . which was basically like putting him in prison. They did this to stop John from telling people about Jesus. John wasn't stuck behind bars, but he couldn't go anywhere. Let's check out our Bible story.

### **BIBLE TRUTH 10 minutes**

**Show Video: Video\_WK4\_SoAndSo**

## APPLICATION 3 minutes

### Show Graphic: WK4\_Bottom Line

God has amazing things planned that are WAY bigger and better than we could ever imagine! That's what John saw in the vision God gave him.

I know it's hard for our minds to think about heaven and try to imagine what it'll be like. But we know that God has good things planned for us in the future. We'll get to continue working with God to take care of God's incredible creation. God will have the perfect place for each of us to use the talents and gifts God has given us.

In the end, God will make right every single thing that's wrong. There will be no death, and no crying or pain . . . only endless joy! And our place in God's story will be amazing. So, let's **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God will do!**

### Memory Verse:

#### Show Verse

When you think about the world right now, we're in the middle of God's story. This world we live in isn't perfect. It's broken. We all experience difficult things. But when we follow Jesus, we KNOW that this is not the end! God has a good future planned for us.—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 the amazing things You showed John about the future. It makes us feel so good to know that You have good things planned for all who put their faith in You. I know we can't understand it all, but we do know that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** Help us to remember that and to celebrate, even now, the things that You WILL do! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

I can't wait for you to learn something new in your small group!

(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**