



WEEK TWO – JULY 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *Who are the people who help you find joy?*

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

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!

Key Question: **Who are the people who help you find joy?** Whether you enjoy spending time with friends, family, or even your Small Group, finding people you connect with and who bring you joy can help to make the harder moments easier. Our hope is that preteens will begin to see that they aren’t alone. When they might be having a hard time finding joy, they can look to others who’ve found joy through their faith in Jesus and learn from their example.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Pool Noodle

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- As kids arrive, talk about what kind of games help “Start the Party.”
 - Ask: What kinds of games do you like to play at parties?
- Explain that the group will play a Limbo game together.
- Recruit one kid to help hold the Limbo stick with you.
 - Hold the stick level about 5 feet from the ground to begin.
- Ask the rest of the kids to line up in front of where you are holding the stick.
- Challenge the kids to take turns walking underneath the stick without any part of their body touching it.
- Invite the first kid in line to start the game and continue.
- After the last kid in line has passed under the stick, lower it slightly, and ask kids to proceed through the line again, and repeat each round.
- As the stick continues to lower, explain that the kids must duck their body by bending backwards without leaning forward or using a hand to touch the ground for support. If they do, they are out.
- Continue until there is only one (or a few) remaining. They are the winner!
- Play again if time allows.

What You Say:

“Today, we’re going to hear a story about something very important that Jesus showed us! Let’s go to Large Group to hear more!!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we see Jesus’ first recorded miracle found in John 2:1-11. Everyone was laughing, talking, and having a good time until...the wine ran out! Jesus knew the importance of celebrating and how it would impact that family to run out of wine when the celebrations weren’t done yet. So Jesus did something about it, which allowed the party to keep going.

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Feelings Wheel” Activity Page and “Feelings Party” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle and place the “Feelings Wheel” Activity Page in the middle.
- Set out the cards from the “Feelings Party” Activity Page nearby.
- Explain that the group is going to take turns reading a scenario, choosing how they might feel at first in that scenario (using the “Feelings Wheel” Activity Page), and then think of how they could change that initial response to show joy instead.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Direct them to take a card from the stack of “Feelings Party” Activity Page cards and read it out loud.

- Help them use the Feelings Wheel to select the best way to describe how they would initially react if it happened to them.
- Then ask how they could change their initial response to show joy instead.
- Invite others in the group to contribute to the discussion by allowing additional suggestions for ways they could show joy in each scenario.
- Continue around the circle so that everyone gets a turn, and/or you have gone through all the scenario cards.
- ***[Make It Personal] Tell the kids a story about a time when you found it challenging to have joy. This could be an ordinary, everyday type of situation. Share how you were eventually able to have joy.***

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Put kids in pairs and encourage them to spread out in your group space with their partner.
- Tell partners to talk about something that makes it challenging for them to have joy.
 - This could be a particular trial that they are experiencing right now, or it could even be why having joy on a daily basis is challenging.
- Remind kids that having a Small Group at church is a great way to find kids that you can trust, who can listen and understand, and encourage each other to trust God no matter what.
- Give kids time to talk with each other and encourage them to take a few minutes to pray together.
- Once everyone has finished talking and praying, bring the whole group back together and ask if anyone would like to say a prayer for the whole group.

(Be sensitive to the fact that kids may not feel comfortable praying in front of others. If no one offers, you can pray for the group.)