



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."
Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Making Waves" from *Make Waves EP* and "Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Choose Joy
Application Activity: Joy-O-Meter
Memory Verse Activity: Make Waves Mural
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would understand that God can help them find the joy in every bad or hard situation. Ask God to help kids identify the parts of difficult situations that they could focus on in order to choose joy. Pray that kids would remember how much God loves them, especially when they

face a tough time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, large bowl, Orbeez® or pom-poms for "Choose Joy" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Ask the kids to help you prepare for the Bible Story Review game by getting the Orbeez or pom-poms into a large bowl and mixing them up.
- As you work, ask the following questions:
 - When have you been the happiest in your life?
 - Where is the place that you feel happiest?
 - Who makes you feel happy?
 - If you were sad, what would cheer you up the most?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Galatians 5:22-23a, NlrV

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Coloring materials, paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Invite the kids to draw joy—however they understand it.
- Ask, “What does joy look like?”
- To prompt their thinking, tell the kids they can write the letters of JOY and decorate them, draw a person or place that brings them joy, draw an abstract representation of the emotion of joy, or whatever they can think of!
- After they’ve finished, invite kids to share about their pictures with the rest of the group.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Joy is a lot like happiness, but not exactly the same. People have a lot of different ideas of what joy really means. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to see what joy looks like in action!**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
TWO
JUNE 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



* 1. CHOOSE JOY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large bowl with Orbeez® or pom-poms, two smaller bowls, disposable chopsticks

NOTE: If using Orbeez or other water beads, this is a great game to play outside!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the water beads or pom-poms in a large bowl if kids did not prepare them in "Early Arriver."
- Place the large bowl on one side of your Small Group area with the smaller bowls and chopsticks nearby on that same side of your area.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to line up on the far end of the playing area.
- Assign each team a color of water beads or pom-poms and a small bowl.
- Direct the first kid on each team to run to the big bowl, use the chopsticks to take out five of their color beads and put them in the smaller bowl, then run back to their team and tag the next kid.
- The game ends when one team has all of their beads from the large bowl into their small bowl.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How might this game have been different if both teams were supposed to get the same color? (*Invite responses.*) I like that you had different colors because joy looks different for everyone.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."
Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

"For some people, joy might be trying to find the positive in an unpleasant situation. You could choose to be happy with a snack from the vending machine at the car repair shop instead of the ice cream you were on your way to get when the car broke down. For others, joy looks like trusting God that a rough time—when someone you love is sick or you feel lonely—won't last forever.

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

"How do you **choose joy no matter what's going on?** What does joy look like for you? (*Invite responses and try to steer away from joy as equal to happiness. Remind kids that joy is a choice to trust God's plan, no matter what, while happiness just occurs easily when life is good.*)

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about when you chose joy in the face of a tough situation. Did you find a positive attitude in the midst of negativity? Did you focus on gratitude for what you had instead of sadness about what you didn't?)

"The apostles in our Bible story had joy even when things were going wrong. They knew that God's plan in Jesus was good news for all people, and that



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SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(*1. CHOOSE JOY, CONTINUED)

truth gave them joy. It didn't make their lives perfect, and there were times when they were scared or sad, but they chose to have joy and trust God, no matter what."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



2. JOY-O-METER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy-O-Meter Faces" Activity Pages, "Joy-O-Meter Cards" Activity Page, double-sided tape, coloring materials, clear contact paper or packing tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a face from the "Joy-O-Meter Faces" Activity Pages and coloring materials.
- Invite the kids to color their face.
- After they finish, cover the faces with clear contact paper or packing tape.
- Put a line of double-sided tape on a table or wall and stick the "0% Joy found" card to one end and the "100% Joy found" to the other end.
- Read the first "Joy-O-Meter" card.
- Instruct the kids to put their face along the Joy-O-Meter tape line to show how much joy they think they could find in that situation.
- Direct them to take their faces off the meter, then read the next card.
- Play until you run out of cards or as long as time allows.
- Leave the Joy-O-Meter tape line up for "Pray and Dismiss."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
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Acts 5:17-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This game reminds us that you can **choose joy no matter what's going on**. Choosing joy doesn't mean you pretend nothing is ever wrong, and it doesn't mean you have to be happy about sad things. Choosing joy means you trust God and God's plan. God loves us all so much that we get to have a never-ending relationship together. That's a big thing to be joyful about, no matter what else happens.

"But as much as we can have BIG JOY about God's forever plan, we can choose joy in small ways, too. How are you going to choose joy this week? (Invite kids to share. Prompt them to think of normal situations like being grateful for what they have, keeping a good attitude during a tense time, dealing with not having what they want, etc.)

"Those are all great ways you can **choose joy no matter what's going on.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Have you ever seen someone who has joy in very difficult circumstances, like a person who's very sick but is still kind to others or someone who doesn't have a lot of things but is grateful for what they do have? What was that person like?
- Who is the most joyful person you know in real life? Why do you think so?
- What can you do if you're in a situation where you feel like joy is impossible?



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. MAKE WAVES MURAL

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Make Waves Mural Week 2" Activity Page, Bibles, Mural from previous week, tape or glue, ring-shaped pool float

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Galatians 5:22-23 with the navigation tips.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Galatians in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 5, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 22 in chapter 5. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose joy no matter what's going on.

- Read the verses out loud with the group.
- Remind kids that the group is adding symbols to the mural each week. This week's symbol is for joy.
- Tape or glue the "JOY" pool ring decal to the mural.
- Ask one kid to be the first volunteer.
- Instruct that kid to stand about six feet away from your group and put their hands together above their head (like they're making an arrow point).
- Direct the first kid from the group to toss the ring-shaped pool float onto their friend's upright arms, ring-toss style.
- Invite the other kids to take turns tossing the float.
- Ask for someone else to be the volunteer.
- Play as long as time allows.
- Store the mural in a safe place for next week.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."
Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Sometimes, we talk about joy like it's this pool float and we're waiting with our arms up for joy to come to us out of the sky. If we don't feel joy, we figure it's the fault of whoever should be making us happy and tossing that float—our parents, our teachers, life in general, sometimes even God.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
TWO
JUNE 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. MAKE WAVES MURAL, CONTINUED)

“But that’s not joy. Joy is a choice, and it’s something God grows in us as we follow God’s plan for our lives. You can’t stand still and wait for joy to happen to you, you have to choose **joy no matter what’s going on**. If you ask, God will help you choose joy, even when it’s difficult to understand or there’s not much to be happy about in your situation.”



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy-O-Meter" Activity tape line, face cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids around the Joy-O-Meter.
- Give each kid the face they colored in the "Joy-O-Meter" Activity.
- Ask kids to evaluate their joy right this minute and place their face on the line.
- Remind kids that they can **choose joy no matter what's going on**, even if they're facing things that aren't so happy right now.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You give us the gift of joy! We are joyful to be called Your children. We trust that You have a good plan for us, and we can have joy knowing You love us. Thank You! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share the Joy pictures they made during "Opening Activity."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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The Apostles Are Treated Badly
Acts 5:17-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Orbeez® or pom-poms for "Choose Joy" Activity
- Large bowl for "Choose Joy" Activity

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Coloring materials
- Paper

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. CHOOSE JOY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Orbeez® water beads in several colors (soaked for the required amount of time in water) OR pom-poms in several different colors
- Large bowl
- Two smaller bowls
- Several sets of disposable chopsticks

2. JOY-O-METER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Joy-O-Meter Faces" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one face for each kid
- Print the "Joy-O-Meter Cards" on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Clear contact paper or packing tape
- Coloring materials
- Double-sided tape

3. MAKE WAVES MURAL

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Make Waves Mural Week 2" Activity Page on heavy paper or cardstock and cut out; one for each small group
- Bibles
- Mural from previous week
- Tape or glue
- Ring-shaped pool float

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Joy-O-Meter" Activity tape line and face cards

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**



What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one face for each kid.

Your family is on the way to see a movie you waited for months to see when your little brother or sister gets sick in the backseat and you have to head home instead.

Recess is cancelled because a few kids in your class were misbehaving. Instead, you have to sit quietly and read books.

You have a Saturday morning full of chores before going to a friend's birthday party.

Instead of going to the park, you get dragged to your parents' friends' house where they talk FOREVER about really boring stuff.

Someone you love is sick and you're going to visit them in the hospital.

Your friend gets the toy you've wanted for ages and offers to let you play with it sometimes.

Your teacher assigns extra homework on the day of your big game.

No one saved you a seat at lunch and you're sitting alone.

Your mom gave your sibling your leftover tacos for lunch.

You hoped to go away for vacation but you're staying home all summer long.

The power went out just before your birthday party!

You feel discouraged about a big test.

What to Do:

Print on paper and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.



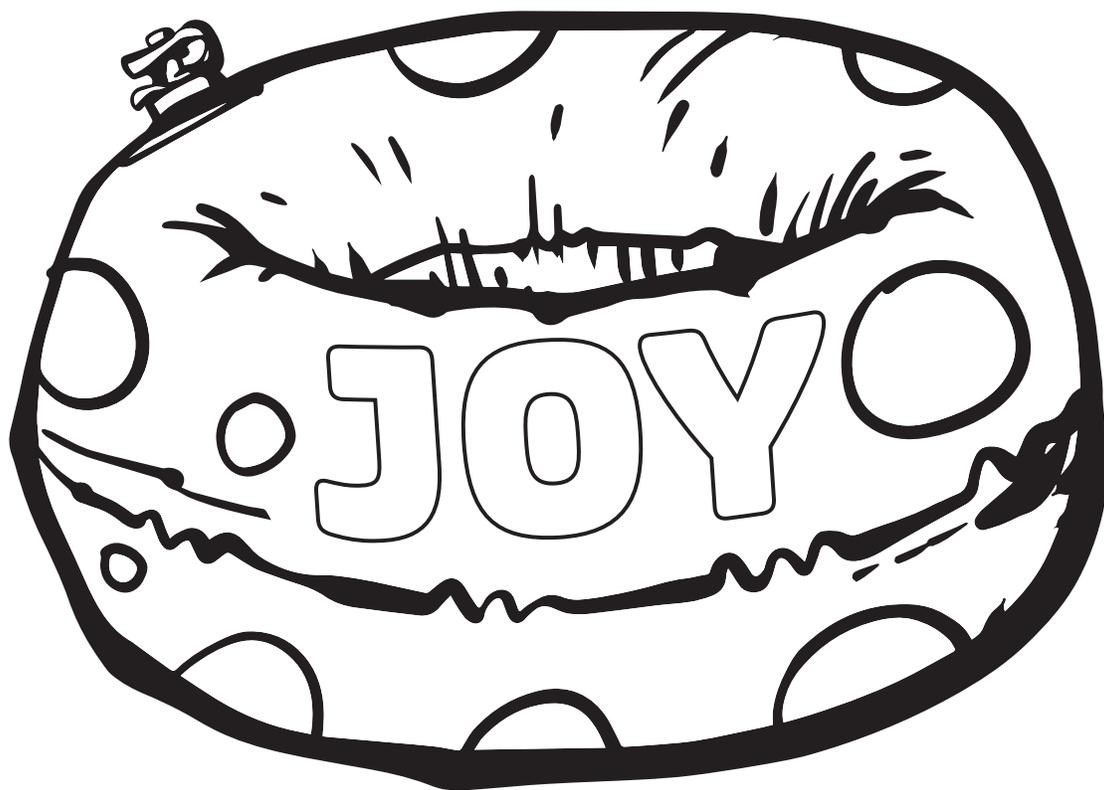
0% Joy Found



100% Joy Found

What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.

"Joy-o-Meter Cards" Activity Page
June 2022, Week 2, K-5 Starter
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What to Do:

Print on heavy paper or cardstock and cut out. Provide one for each small group.

"Make Waves Mural Week 2" Activity Page

June 2022, Week 2, K-5 Starter

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