



START THE PARTY | WEEK 3 | JUNE 16, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Ezra and the Rebuilding of the Temple

Bible Story: *Ezra and the Rebuilding of the Temple* • I can have joy when I do hard things • *Ezra 3:10-13*

Memory Verse: “A joyful heart is good medicine.” Proverbs 17:22, ESV

Key Question: Who can have joy all the time?

Bottom Line: I can have joy all the time.

Basic Truth: I am made by God the reflect His image (act like Him).

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Everyone loves a party because parties mean we have something to celebrate. Birthdays, Christmas, a winning season—each party brings so much joy! This month, we are going to start a party that celebrates the Good News about God! And when God is at the center of our celebration, I can have joy all the time! It doesn't sound possible, at first, but then when we think about God . . . who God is . . . what God has done . . . how much God loves us . . . well, that is worth celebrating! God is worth celebrating! All day, every day! So, let's Start The Party! It's time to celebrate the Good News about God.

Story Focus: I can have joy when I do hard things.

The temple was where God's people met to learn about God and praise God, but it had been destroyed. So, God's people decide to rebuild the temple.

Temples are really big, and it was going to take a lot of hard work to rebuild it. But some people start celebrating after the foundation was built! We can be like the people who chose to celebrate. We can look at the good things God is doing and have joy all the time.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? *(Kids respond.)* Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘A joyful (brush flat hands upward twice)
heart (tap chest twice with fingertip)
is good medicine (move flat hand from chin to palm),’
Proverbs 17:22. (Open hands like a book.)

“Ok, Now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: START THE PARTY, JESUS NO MATTER WHAT)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Party Hat, Gift Box/Bag with Prop (W1 Toy Sheep, W2 Toy Carrot/Cabbage, W3 Building Block, W4 Empty, W5 “Gospel Cube” on Cardstock), Story Box)

*LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room.
You should have a party hat and gift box/bag with current week prop.*

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here…”

Pull out and put on the party hat.

What is this? *(Pause for responses)*. Yes, a party hat! Who has been to a party before? *(Pause for responses)*. Parties are fun because you get to celebrate something and someone special.

Pull out gift box/bag.

What else do I have? *(Pause for responses)*. Yes, a gift! Have you ever given a gift to someone or received a gift? Let’s see what’s inside. **It’s a building block!** Hmm. I wonder if there is building block in our story today. This month we are celebrating the Good News about God! God is worth celebrating!

Let’s watch our Bible story to see what we are celebrating this week.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

“Wow! That was a great story! The people had so much JOY even when they did the hard work of rebuilding the temple! We can have joy when we do hard things too because God loves us! And God loves us all the time, so we can have joy all the time!

“When I ask you, ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ I want you to say, [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’ Let’s try it! ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’ Now say it with a big smile! ‘Who can have joy all the time?’ [Bottom Line] ‘I can have joy all the time!’”

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let’s look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, ‘I am made by God to reflect His image that means to act like Him. We act like Him when we have joy in the hard things.

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. *(Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)*

“Dear God, help us to see the good and have joy—even when we do hard things. We know You love us and are always with us, and that is worth celebrating all the time! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *Ezra and the Rebuilding of the Temple* • I can have joy when I do hard things • *Ezra 3:10-13*

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REBUILD

(“Church Puzzle” Activity Sheet, Campus Specific – 1 or 2 puzzle sheets per group on 11x17)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print “Church Puzzle” Activity Page and cut along strips.

During the Activity: Encourage children to work together to align the numbers and puzzle strips in the correct order to complete the picture. Once all the pieces have been assembled, try to identify the building. Repeat as desired. **NOTE:** If you have more than 7 children in your small group, split into two smaller groups and allow each group to complete one puzzle.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hello, friends! Come to the circle, and let’s play a game.”

During the Activity: “I have several puzzle pieces. Let’s count how many. One, two, three, four, five, six, SEVEN! Let’s work together to complete the puzzle. Guide children, as needed, to put the puzzle pieces in order from one to seven. Great job! Can you tell me what the picture is? (*Pause for responses.*) It’s our church building! (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: “In today’s Bible story, we heard about a special building called a temple. The temple was where God’s people would meet to learn about God and praise God, like our church building. God’s people had a hard job of rebuilding the temple, but they had joy and celebrated because the work had begun. We can have joy when we do hard things too because God loves us. Who can have joy all the time? [*Bottom Line*] I can have joy all the time!

TOWER BUILDERS

(Blocks - at least one for every child in your group, the more blocks, the higher the tower)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children to stand in a circle.

During the Activity: Pass one block around the circle as you say the memory verse. Move the block with every word. The child who is holding the block at the end of the verse will place the block on the floor in the middle of your circle to start a tower. Pick up another block. Hand it to the next

child in the circle and continue in the same way to build a tower as high as you can. If the tower falls, start the building process over. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line and Bible Story together.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come stand in a circle with me.”

During the Activity: “We’re going to build a tower in the middle here with these blocks! Let’s pass the blocks one at a time around the circle as we say our memory verse. (Pass a block.) “A joyful heart is good medicine.” Proverbs 17:22. [Child’s name who is holding the block], put the block on the floor in the middle of the circle to start the tower. (Pause.) Great job! Let’s pass another block around our circle as we say our memory verse. (Hand a block to the next child in the circle.) Continue until each child has a turn to add a block. That was so fun! Great job, builders.”

After the Activity: “The people in our Bible Story worked hard to rebuild the temple, and then some of the people celebrated! We can have joy all the time—even when it’s hard—because God loves us. Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

“I (point up)
will always (draw circles with finger pointing up)
love you,’ (cross arms over chest)
Jeremiah 31:3.” (Open hands like a book).

PRAY

“Let’s pray together. (Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)

“Dear God, today we celebrate You! No matter what happens, we can always have joy and celebrate because You love us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY – COLORING SHEET

(“I Can Have Joy When I Do Hard Things” Activity Page - 1 per child, Crayons)

What You Do:

- Pass out one activity page to each child.
- As parents are picking up, encourage kids to color the coloring sheet together.
- Continue having intentional conversations with your small group.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.