



START THE PARTY | WEEK 4 | JUNE 23, 2024

Preschool Lesson

God Will Give Us Joy

Bible Story: *God Will Give Us Joy* • I can have joy no matter what • *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

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 to 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 no matter what.

Habakkuk reminds us that even when things don't go our way, we can still have joy and celebrate because God loves us. Habakkuk prays to God and says that, even if he couldn't grow any food or his farm, didn't have any animals, he could still have joy because God loved him. We want our preschoolers to know they can too because God loves them too.

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? *(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. **What? It’s empty!** I wonder what our story is about 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! Habakkuk had joy all the time because he knew that God loved him all the time. YOU can have joy all the time because God loves YOU all the time too! *Give yourself a hug.* Give yourself a big hug, like this, because God loves you! *(Pause).* Great job!

“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 even when we don’t get what we want.

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, having joy all the time can be hard, especially when we don’t get what we want, or we can’t do what we want to do. But when we remember how much You love us, and that nothing will ever change that, we truly can have joy all the time. Thank You for loving us so much, God. You’re the best! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: *God Will Give Us Joy* • I can have joy no matter what • *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

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Key Question: Who can have joy all the time?

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NOTHING BUT JOY

(“Nothing but Joy” Activity Page - 1 per group, (3) Paper Bags per group and Foam Heart Stickers - 1 per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Nothing but Joy” Activity Page and cut, one set per small group. Tape/glue each picture to a paper bag.

During the Activity: Place the paper bags with pictures in front of you and the foam hearts within reach. Use the empty bags and hearts as you review the Bible Story.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, friends! Come sit with me!”

During the Activity: “In our Bible Story, a man named Habakkuk prayed to God. He told God that even if his trees didn’t grow any figs, he would still have joy because God loved him. A fig is a fruit. Which of these containers has a fig on it? (Pause.) Yes! This is a yummy fig. Do you think there are figs in here? Let’s open it and see. (Open the lid.) No figs in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It’s empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God loved him! Let’s put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk! (Give each child a foam heart to put in the bag.) It’s full of joy now! (shake the bag). Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time! (shake and empty hearts from bag).

“Habakkuk told God that even if his grapevines didn’t grow any grapes, he would still have joy because God loved him. Which of these containers has grapes on it? (Pause.) Yes! These are grapes. Do you think there are grapes in here? Let’s open it and see. (Open the bag.) No grapes in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It’s empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God loved him! Let’s put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk! (Give each child a foam heart to put in the bag.) It’s full of joy now! (shake the bag). Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time! (shake and empty hearts from bag).

“Habakkuk told God that even if his farm didn’t have any animals, he would still have joy because God loved him. Which of these containers has animals on it? (Pause.) Yes! These are cows and sheep! Do you think there are cows and sheep in here? Let’s open it and see. (Open the bag.) No animals in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It’s empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God

loved him! Let's put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk! (Give each child a foam heart to put in the bag.) It's full of joy now! (shake the bag). Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time! (shake and empty hearts from bag).

After the Activity: "Habakkuk had joy all the time because he knew that God loved him. God loves you and God loves me, so you can have joy all the time too! Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!"

EVEN WHEN... (2-3's Version)

(“Even When” Activity Pages – 1 set per group, Foam Heart Stickers from previous activity)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather “Even When” activity pages.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to sit with you in a circle. Hold up each activity page asking “Who likes [word on page]? Oh no, there are no [word on page] on this paper but we can still have joy. Continue with each activity page.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

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

During the Activity: “I have some favorite things to share with you! Are you ready? Who likes cookies? (Pause for responses.) Oh no, there are no cookies on this paper, BUT we can still have joy! Let's put a heart on the paper. God loves us! Who likes toys? (Pause for responses.) Oh no, there are no toys on this paper, BUT we can still have joy! Let's put a heart on this paper. God loves u! Who likes going to the park? Oh no, there is no park on this paper, BUT we can still have joy! Let's put a heart on the paper. God loves us! When we remember that God loves us, we can have joy. We can have joy even when we don't have any of our favorite things.”

After the Activity: “We can have joy all the time, no matter what! Who can have joy all the time? [Bottom Line] I can have joy all the time!”

EVEN WHEN... (4-5's Version)

(11x17 Blank Paper – 1 per group, Marker/Pen)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set paper in the center of group.

During the Activity: Gather the children around the paper. Encourage the children to list some of their favorite things—like food, toys, things to do, etc. Write down their answers all over the paper. Point to each item as you lead the children to say, “Even if I don't have (item on the paper), I can have joy.” Draw a heart or a smiley face around it. Repeat with all the items written on the page.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come gather here at the table.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a list of all our favorite things! What is your favorite food? What is your favorite toy? What is your favorite thing to do? (Write down answers as children share.) This is a great list! Today, we talked about how we can have joy no matter what! Even if I don’t have (point to and say one of the answers), I can have joy. (Draw a heart or smiley face around it.) Even if I don’t have (point to and say one of the answers), I can have joy. (Repeat with remaining items on the list.) When we remember that God loves us, we can have joy. We can have joy even when we don’t have any of our favorite things.”

After the Activity: “We can have joy all the time, no matter what! 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, sometimes we don’t get what we want, but we can still have joy, because You love us. You’re the best, God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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.