

Small Group Experience

LESSON 2 - "JOY"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I'll Be Full Of The Joy Of The Lord!"



Power Verse:

"But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy."

-Psalm 68:3

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bible Story Name Cards Print Piece (*provided; print one set*)
- * Yarn
- * Tape
- * Scissors

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Bible Story Name Cards Print Piece and tape a piece of yarn to each card so that it can be worn like a necklace. As the kids enter the room, pass out the name cards. To review the Bible Story, read the provided lesson excerpt aloud. As you read, the kids should act out the story. Pause during the story at the appropriate times so the kids can act out the parts.

Say - I am glad to see all your joyful faces! Let's get started by taking a look at someone in the Bible who had a very memorable, joy-filled moment - King David. I need some volunteers to help with the story.

-Choose volunteers and pass out name cards-

Say - When it comes to the part of the story where your name card is mentioned, act out what is happening as I read.

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, pausing and prompting the volunteers to act out their parts of the story at the appropriate times-

Say - King David had been away on a mission to go get the Ark of the Covenant from a faraway land and bring it back to Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant was very special. It was what the Ten Commandments were stored in. It was also a very important spiritual symbol for the Israelites. King David had longed for many years to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem, God's Holy City.

(Time for King David and the people carrying the ark to act it out!)

As King David entered Jerusalem, he went in front of the Ark, praising God. David was the king of Israel, but he wasn't wearing his royal robe as he worshipped. Instead, he was wearing a "linen ephod," which was not very "king-like" at all. David didn't care about how he looked. He just wanted to worship God.

(Time for the people following King David into Jerusalem to join the others and act it out!)

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In fact, David worshipped God so much that he began to dance wildly before the Lord. He led the entire group of people there in praise and shouting unto God. David had the joy of the Lord!

(Time for Michal to join the scene)

However, King David’s wife, Michal, was not very happy. She got angry at King David and began to criticize him. She told King David that he looked very foolish dancing and celebrating like that. She didn’t think this made him look very good in front of all the people. King David wasn’t thinking about what the people who were watching thought about his dancing and singing to God. He was focused on GOD, not the other people. So King David looked at his wife and said, “I was dancing before the Lord. I am willing to act like a fool in order to show my joy in the Lord. Yes, I am willing to look even more foolish than this!”

Say - Thank you for helping me with this JOYful Bible Story. You did a great job.

Ask - Why did Michal care how David worshipped? What motivated her actions?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why did David worship the way he did? What motivated his actions?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How did JOY play a role in this story?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Pin The JOYful Smile On The Face Print Pieces (*provided; print one face (laminare, if possible); print enough smiles for each kid to have at least one*)
- * Tape (*for the group to share*)
- * Scissors (*for the group to share*)
- * Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- * Blindfold

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Pin The JOYful Smile On The Face Print Pieces. If possible, laminate the face for best results. Once activity time begins, allow each kid to cut out a smile piece, write their name on it, and place a rolled piece of tape on the back. Play the game as you would play “Pin The Tail On The Donkey.” One at a time, blindfold kids and allow them to try and “pin” the joyful smile on the face. This can be played multiple rounds, as time allows, and is a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity. Have the kids hold on to their smiles to use in the next activity.

Say - Not everyone in the room looks joyful. This head is completely missing its smile! To remedy that situation, I think we should play a game. First, everyone cut out one JOYful mouth, write your name it, and place a rolled-up piece of tape on the back.

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-Allow time for the kids to complete the activity-

Say - Now it's time to play! This game will be played just like “Pin The Tail On The Donkey.” Each of you will take turns being blindfolded and trying to place the JOYful smile on the face where the mouth should be. Also, hold on to your JOYful mouth pieces - we will use them again in our next activity.

-Play “Pin The JOYful Smile On The Face” for as many rounds as desired -

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Faces Print Pieces (*provided; print enough for each kid*)
- * JOYful Smiles Print Piece (*from activity time*)
- * Scissors (*for the group to share*)
- * Glue (*for the group to share*)
- * Colored pencils, crayons, markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Ask - Can you choose your feelings?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Do you think our feelings can be a representation of God? How?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - How we handle our emotions can be a huge testimony to the world. Our reactions can show the world God, or they can turn the world away from God. Life won't always be good - bad things will happen.

Ask - How are bad times different for followers of Jesus, and why?

-Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What is joy?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What is the difference between being happy and having joy?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - The joy that comes from God can't be stopped. It's not just there in the good times - it's there in the bad times, the scary times, and the sad times. With God, you can always be JOYful. Each of you has a piece of paper with a head, but the face is missing something critical - the mouth! Cut out the head and the mouth. Attach the mouth to the face so it can be JOYful. Also, decorate the head. Be creative and have fun!

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-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - How do we live a JOYful life?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - When we remember that God is always with us, it reminds us to have joy no matter what. Take your JOYful head home with you as a reminder that with God, you can have a JOYful life.

Prayer Time

Say - Joy is an awesome gift from God. It gives us an advantage and helps us through tough times. Let's thank God for the gift of joy.

Pray

Closing

Say - David finally accomplished a task that was very important to God and His people - he returned the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. He was so excited that he danced like crazy in front of everyone! David was so thankful that God had blessed his mission. David was full of the JOY of God. His wife didn't think he was acting very appropriately. She tried to rain on his dancing parade and kill the moment, but she wasn't successful. David's joy couldn't be stopped because his joy wasn't from man, it was from God! His joy showed everyone in Jerusalem that he was not only full of joy, he was full of God. We can have the same joy that David had; it is a gift for all believers! We can be full of the joy of God. When we choose JOY, it is a testimony to everyone around us that we are full of God. Thanks for coming today! I will see you again soon.

HELLO
MY NAME IS

DAVID

HELLO
MY NAME IS

MICHAL

HELLO
WE ARE THE

PEOPLE FOLLOWING DAVID
INTO JERUSALEM

HELLO
WE ARE THE

PEOPLE FOLLOWING DAVID
INTO JERUSALEM

HELLO
WE ARE THE

PEOPLE CARRYING
THE ARK

HELLO
WE ARE THE

PEOPLE CARRYING
THE ARK





