



WEEK
ONE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found

The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes
you healthy. But a broken
spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate
what God is doing

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> or a visual on some of the activities.

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
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Hide and Seek Sheep
Application Activity: Jesus and Joy!
Memory Verse Activity: Emoji Verse
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how your life has become joyful from following Jesus. Ask God to help the kids in your group to be open to discovering how Jesus rescues us and invites us to follow Him.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found

The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Counting to 100 by Tens" Activity Page, dot markers, stamps, or washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Counting to 100 by Tens" Activity Page and dot marker, stamp, or washable marker.
- Encourage the kids to mark ten dots (or ten stamps) on each section of the "Counting to 100 by Tens" Activity Page.
 - If using washable markers, instruct the kids to color in ten dots or draw ten "X's."
- Direct the kids to count each time they make a mark, and when they get to 10 to move to the next section.
- Ask: "What's something you wish you had 100 of?"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
ONE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper; thick, black marker; and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use a thick, black marker to write the word "JOY" in large block letters in the center of the butcher paper.
- Instruct the kids to sit around the butcher paper.
- Point out the word "JOY" on the butcher paper.
- Say: "Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing."
- Set out the washable markers.
- Encourage the kids to draw or write what brings them joy around the outside of the butcher paper in front of them.
- Help kids come up with ideas by asking things like:
 - What makes you happy every time you see it?
 - Who can cheer you up on a bad day?
 - When was the last time you felt like celebrating?
- As the kids finish, invite them to share what they wrote about or drew.
- Set the butcher paper aside to use for prayer later.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found

The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, I LOVE all the things on our joy banner. There are so many reasons to have joy. Thanks for sharing. **[Transition]** In our Bible Story today, we'll learn how we can have joy no matter what."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found

The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



1. HIDE AND SEEK SHEEP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional: painter's tape*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids and explain that you will play a game of Hide and Seek as sheep!
- Designate an area as your "pen"—this could be an area rug, a grouping of chairs in a big circle, or, optionally, a section marked on the floor with painter's tape.
- Select a willing volunteer to be the seeker—the "shepherd."
- Designate the other kids to be sheep.
- Instruct the "shepherd" to cover their eyes and count to ten.
- Direct the rest of the kids (the "sheep") to attempt to hide.
 - If your meeting area is not conducive to hiding, instruct the kids to simply spread out in the group space.
- When time is up, direct the shepherd to find (tag) the sheep.
- If a sheep is tagged, instruct them to go to the "pen" for the remainder of the game.
- Encourage the "sheep" in the pen to "BAAAA" until all sheep are found.
- When all sheep are found and safely in the pen, celebrate together.
- Lead your kids to sit down as you review the Bible Story.
- Talk about the following key points from the story:
 - Jesus told this story about a shepherd and his sheep. The shepherd had 100 sheep but lost one. What did he do? Jesus said that the shepherd left the 99 sheep behind to go and look for the one missing sheep because the sheep was so valuable to the shepherd.
 - And when he found the lost sheep, what did the shepherd do? Celebrate! The lost sheep had been found! The shepherd told his friends the good news so they could celebrate too.
 - We're sometimes like the lost sheep. We can try to do the right thing on our own, but we won't always get it right. We will mess up. But the good news is, because of Jesus, we don't have to be perfect. We can have a relationship with God forever because of what Jesus has done!
 - Sometimes, we're like the shepherd's friends. We can celebrate when we look around and see all the wonderful things God is doing in the world around us. We have an opportunity to be joyful and celebrate too.
- If time allows, select a new "shepherd," and play another round or two.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love this story that Jesus told because it shows us that Jesus wants to have a relationship with EVERYONE. He doesn't want any of us to be 'lost' or away from Him. At the end of His time on Earth, Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He did that to make a way for us to be forgiven—no matter how lost we get. Jesus is always there to help us! When we put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever. That's a HUGE reason to have joy!



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. HIDE AND SEEK SHEEP, CONTINUED)

“But this story isn’t just about the lost sheep. It’s also about everyone who celebrated when the lost sheep was found. You see, God is always working to do good in the world around us. And every day, more and more people are learning about God’s BIG love for them. Each time we see something God has done, we can stop and celebrate just like the shepherd’s friends! Remember, **we can have joy because of Jesus.**”

NOTE: As you talk about what it means to be “lost” and how Jesus came to save us, be sensitive to kids who might have questions about what it means to follow Jesus. Follow your church’s policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. And always involve families with this discussion/decision as well.

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time you celebrated something BIG God has done. Maybe someone you’ve been praying would come to church with you finally came. Or maybe a coworker or friend asked you to pray for them for the first time. What did you see God do in that situation? Did you celebrate with joy? Why or why not?)

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT
an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



*** 2. JESUS AND JOY!**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Jesus and Joy Cards” Activity Page, and prepared envelopes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Direct the kids to close and cover their eyes.
- Quickly hide the prepared envelopes around your group space.
 - If your meeting area is not conducive to hiding the envelopes, scatter the envelopes all around your group space instead.
- After you’ve hidden the envelopes, direct the kids to open their eyes.
- Tap each kid’s head as you count off 1 and 2 around the circle.
- Encourage the kids to remember their number.
- Guide the kids to look around the group space to find one envelope with the number they’ve been assigned.
 - So all the “1” kids will look for envelopes with the number one written on it, while all the “2” kids will look for envelopes with the number two written on it.
- Direct all of the kids with the “1” envelopes to sit in a circle together, and all of the kids with the “2” envelopes to sit in a different circle together.
- Once every kid has an envelope and is sitting with their group, lead the kids to open their envelopes together. Read the words aloud.
- Say: “Real joy comes from knowing Jesus. God is always working in the world around us. When we look for what God is doing, then we can celebrate and have joy!”
- After reading the section below, collect all the cards.
- Save the “JESUS” cards for the Prayer activity.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY
Lost and Found
The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE
We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE
“A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.”
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE
Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH
I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

(to group 2) “Hold up the cards that say, ‘Jesus!’ Great job! Jesus loves us and came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. (to group 1) Hold up the cards that say, ‘Joy!’ Great job! Knowing how much Jesus loves us should bring us . . . ‘JOY!’ We can also look for ways that God is working in the world around us and celebrate those things too.

“Like when a friend is sick, and you pray, and they feel better. Or when your mom is worried about her job and then she finds a new one. Or when you come to church and worship with your friends. God is always working and moving. God hears every prayer and cares about us! We can have joy when we pay attention to the ways God is working in the world around us.

“When you hear your word, I want you to hold up your card. Remember, **we can have** (to group 1) **JOY because of** (to group 2) **JESUS**. Let’s do that again. Remember to hold up your card when you hear the word on it! Remember, **we can have** (to group 1) **JOY because of** (to group 2) **JESUS**. Way to go, friends!”

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE
an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



*** 3. EMOJI VERSE**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Proverbs 17:22 Strips” Activity Page, paper plates, markers, glue sticks, large craft sticks, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair kids up and give each pair a Bible.
- Together, look up Proverbs 17:22 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found
The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Proverbs at the top of the page as you say “Proverbs” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 17 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 17 for the little 22; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them 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, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 22 in chapter 17.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

“A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.”
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

- Read the verse to the group.
- Point out the very first part of the verse: “A cheerful heart.” Ask: What do you think it means to have a cheerful heart? (Someone who is full of joy! Someone who remembers that God loves them and sent Jesus to make things right.)
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Set out the markers and glue sticks.
- Encourage the kids to select a marker and draw a smiley face on one side of their plate and frowny face on the other.
- Encourage the kids to flip to the smiley face side of their plate.
- Give each kid a “Proverbs 17:22 Strips” Activity Page with the first half of the verse.
- Encourage the kids to glue the strip of the first half of the verse above their smiley face.
- When kids have finished gluing, direct them flip to the frowny face side of the plate.
- Give each kid a “Proverbs 17:22 Strips” Activity Page with the second half of the verse.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 3. EMOJI VERSE, CONTINUED)

- Encourage the kids to glue the strip of the second half of the verse above their frowny face.
- Give each kid a large craft stick.
- Help each kid to use the masking tape to attach the large craft stick to the bottom of their plate.
- Write each kid's name somewhere on their plate.
- Lead the kids to repeat the verse several times together as they flip their paper plates to each side.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What a great Memory Verse for us to discover this month! Hold up the smiley face side. *(Read the first part of the Memory Verse.)* Now, hold up the frowny face side. *(Read the second part of the Memory Verse.)* Remember, **we can have joy because of Jesus!** Let's remember this week to focus on Jesus and what He has done for us! Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God, forever. I'm so thankful God gave us Jesus. Let's focus on having a cheerful heart full of JOY this week!"

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that creates space
for personal understanding
and application

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Lost and Found
The Story of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

We can have joy because of Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes
you healthy. But a broken
spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate
what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper from Opening Activity,
and the "JESUS" cards from Jesus and Joy! Activity

- WHAT YOU DO:**
- Lay the butcher paper page from the Opening Activity in the center of your small group area.
 - Instruct the kids to sit around the butcher paper.
 - Give some of the kids the "JESUS" cards.
 - Say: "The things you've drawn can bring us joy sometimes."
 - Encourage kids with the cards to lay them over their drawings along the outside of the page.
 - Say: "But following Jesus brings us real joy ALL the time."
 - Close the group in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:
"God, thank You for loving us and for proving that love by sending Your only Son Jesus for us! We know that Jesus came to teach us about You, to show us how to live, and to give His life so we could have a relationship with You forever. Help us to put our trust in Jesus because He is the reason for joy, always. We love You and it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their Emoji Verse faces to share the Memory Verse and how **we can have joy because of Jesus.**



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

- Offering container
- Print "Counting to 100 by Tens" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Dot markers, stamps, or washable markers; one for each kid

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper, one long piece for each Small Group
- Thick, black marker; one for each Small Group
- Washable markers, enough for a Small Group to share

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 #2 and #3.

1. HIDE AND SEEK SHEEP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Optional: painter's tape

* 2. JESUS AND JOY!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Jesus and Joy Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set of cards for each Small Group
- Envelopes, twenty for each Small Group
- Black marker, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Place all the "JOY" cards in envelopes (one card per envelope), seal, and write a large "1" on the front.
 - Place all the "JESUS" cards in envelopes (one card per envelope), seal, and write a large "2" on the front.

* 3. EMOJI VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Proverbs 17:22 Strips" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each kid
- Paper plates, one for each kid
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share
- Glue sticks, enough for a Small Group to share
- Large craft sticks, one for each kid
- Masking tape, one roll for each Small Group

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:

- Butcher paper brainstorm from Opening Activity
- "JESUS" cards from "Jesus and Joy!" Activity

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.**