



WEEK
FIVE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
God Will Give Us Joy
Habakkuk 3:17-18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a
reason to celebrate.

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: Habakkuk Finds Joy
Application Activity: Joy Collage
Memory Verse Activity: Illustrated Memory 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. Acknowledge any hard things you're facing, then reflect on how God sent Jesus. Ask God to help you find joy in what God has done. Ask God to help the kids in your group to be open about the hard stuff they're facing and receptive to trusting God's character to make things right.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
God Will Give Us Joy
Habakkuk 3:17-18

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, scissors, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, explain that you will work together to plan a party.
- Place kids in groups of 2-3.
 - As kids arrive, assign them to different groups to keep the groups evenly numbered.
- Assign each group a different aspect of a party to plan: decorations, food, games, party theme, etc.
- Give each group paper, scissors, and markers.
- Instruct the groups to work together to create items for their assigned party category—they can cut out decorations, draw the party food, etc.
- After a few minutes, select a random celebration (Christmas, birthday party, etc.) and let each group explain their part of the party plan. You may end up with a hilarious, crazy, hodge-podge of a party!

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a reason to celebrate.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "JOY" Activity Page, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Without kids seeing it, cut apart the "JOY" Activity Page into several puzzle pieces of your choosing so each kid in the group will get one piece.
 - If kids are still arriving, cut a few extra pieces.
- Give each kid one of the pieces.
- Talk about how each piece represents just one part of the picture.
- Ask: "What should you do with these pieces to have a complete picture?"
- Instruct the kids to work together to complete the puzzle.
- Once finished, point out the word "JOY" in the middle.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
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Habakkuk 3:17-18

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, friends! Each of these pieces was just one part of a bigger puzzle or picture. Sometimes it's easier to focus only on what's happening right in front of us, kind of like looking at one piece of the puzzle. But if we only do that and something bad happens, it can be hard to find joy. **[Transition] Today, we'll hear about a man with a crazy-fun name who learned to trust God and find joy through some really tough stuff.**"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a reason to celebrate.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



*** 1. HABAKKUK FINDS JOY**
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Marked Bible, "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page, prepared paper, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to review the Bible Story using the following key points:
 - Habakkuk was a prophet, someone who listened to God and told people what God was saying.
 - Habakkuk lived in Jerusalem during a really difficult time: enemies were closing in on them, people had forgotten about God, they were fighting each other, and treating others unfairly.
 - Habakkuk called out to God. (*Read Habakkuk 3:2 from the marked Bible.*)
 - Habakkuk had a conversation with God and Habakkuk wrote it all down.
 - God answered Habakkuk and told him life was going to get harder before it got better.
 - Habakkuk chose to have joy because he knew that God had done great things in the past.
- Say: "Habakkuk had a choice! He couldn't change what was happening around him, but he **COULD** choose to trust God because God had done great things in the past."
- Give each kid one of the cards from the "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page.
 - Identify each picture as you hand each card out.
- As you read a passage from today's Bible Story, instruct the kids to listen for the word they are holding. As they hear their word, instruct them to stand up and hold their card up.
- Read Habakkuk 3:17 to the group from the marked Bible.
 - Pause at any references to fig tree, grapes, olives, fields without food, sheep, or cattle and prompt kids to stand, as needed.
- Collect the cards from the "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page and set them aside for the Joy Collage activity.
- Give each kid one or two of the colored paper cards.
- Instruct the kids to draw a picture of something not so great that happened to them recently.
 - Encourage the kids to make more than one drawing if they choose.
 - Prompt them with leading questions if needed:
 - Did you lose something recently?
 - Have you ever gotten sick and had to cancel plans?
 - What is something that has made you sad, frustrated, or scared?
- Read Habakkuk 3:18 to the group from the marked Bible.
- Say: "Habakkuk chose to trust God, even when things were hard."
- Let kids hold onto their drawings for the JOY Collage activity.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 1. HABAKKUK FINDS JOY, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Habakkuk was honest with God about the things that were going wrong. He didn’t just act like everything was okay. Even though Habakkuk may have been angry or upset, he chose to TRUST God. We all face hard things—like the pictures you drew on your cards. But even when things aren’t going our way, we can choose to focus on how Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. No matter what is happening around us, we can trust that God is always up to something good. That’s why: **there’s always a reason to celebrate.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share with the kids an age-appropriate example of something hard that you have recently faced. How did knowing that God loves you and is with you, help you find joy even in the midst of a difficult situation?)

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



*** 2. JOY COLLAGE**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Kids' drawings and "Habakkuk Finds Joy" cards from the Habakkuk Finds Joy Activity, butcher paper, black marker, and a glue stick

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out a piece of butcher paper in the center of your group area.
- Write the word "JOY" in a large, outlined bubble or block letter in the center of the paper.
- Make sure kids have their drawings from the Habakkuk Finds Joy Activity.
- Give each kid a "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page card from the Habakkuk Finds Joy Activity.
- Encourage the kids to tear up their cards (both the ones they've drawn, and the Bible Story images) into small pieces.
- As kids are tearing the cards, use the glue stick to fill the inside of each letter on the butcher paper with glue.
- Ask kids finish tearing their cards, instruct them to fill up the letters of the word "JOY" with the torn pieces.
- Say: "No matter what happens—good or bad—we can still find JOY because God loves us, God is with us, and God sent Jesus to save us."
- Set the collage aside for the Prayer Activity.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, look at this beautiful collage you've made out of all these torn pieces. When hard things happen, it's easy to focus just on that hard thing. It's certainly okay to be sad and to tell God how you feel. But even when we're sad or frustrated, we can choose to trust God. The Bible is full of true stories about real people that show us we can trust God no matter what.

"Instead of focusing on what's going on right in front of us, we can look for JOY. We can remember that God loves us and that God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. So when hard things happen, let's remember that there is ALWAYS joy to be found. Let's ask God to help us understand that **there's always a reason to celebrate.**"

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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



3. ILLUSTRATED MEMORY VERSE
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22, "Illustrated Memory Verse" Activity Page, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Proverbs 17:22.
- Read the Memory Verse aloud to the kids. Invite them to repeat it after you.
- See if anyone would like to recite the Memory Verse from memory.
- Give each kid an "Illustrated Memory Verse" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers.
- Help kids write their names somewhere on the paper.
- Point out the blanks on the page.
- Read the verse, pausing at each blank to see if kids can recall the word.
- Encourage the kids to draw pictures to fill in the blanks. Suggestions below:
 - "heart" –draw a heart outline
 - "broken/crushed"—a broken toy, a stick broken into two pieces, a pile of blocks etc.
 - "up"—an arrow pointing up
- As the kids finish, instruct the kids to point to the words as you review the verse together a few more times.

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Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:
"I love what you've drawn, friends! We can remember that no matter what happens, we can always find JOY because **there's always a reason to celebrate.** When we ask God to help us have a cheerful heart, a heart that trusts God, it's like medicine that makes us feel better!

"But the opposite is also true. If we only focus on something hard or frustrating, it's like having a broken or crushed spirit that's all dried up. Thankfully, God promises to help us. No matter what we're feeling, we can think about all that God has done. We can remember that God sent Jesus, and we can remember **there's always a reason to celebrate.**"

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper from the JOY Collage Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the JOY Collage butcher paper in the center of your group area.
- Instruct the kids to form a tight circle around it.
- Lead the kids in a prayer, reminding them that no matter what happens, **there's always a reason to celebrate.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, we love You. Thank You for reminding us that You are with us and that You sent Jesus because You love us. When hard or frustrating things happen, please help us to be like Habakkuk and choose to trust You. Remind us that we can have joy, no matter what because **there's always a reason to celebrate.** Thank You for Jesus. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to point out the JOY collage and the torn pieces in the center. Give kids the opportunity to share how they can find JOY no matter what happens because **there's always a reason to celebrate.** Send kids home with their "Illustrated Memory Verse" Activity Page.

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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
- Paper, several pieces for every 2-3 kids
- Scissors, one for every 2-3 kids
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "JOY" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one for each Small Group

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 & 2.

* 1. HABAKKUK FINDS JOY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
 - Before group time, mark the Bible at the following passages: Habakkuk 3:2, Habakkuk 3:17, and Habakkuk 3:18.
- Print "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page on cardstock

and cut apart, one card for each kid

- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share
- Colored paper, at least one paper for every three kids
- Before group time:
 - Cut each page of colored paper into six cards.
 - Cut enough cards for each kid to have at least two.

* 2. JOY COLLAGE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Kids' drawings from the Habakkuk Finds Joy Activity
- "Habakkuk Finds Joy" Activity Page cards from the Habakkuk Finds Joy Activity
- Butcher paper, one 6'-8' piece for each Small Group
- Black marker, one for each Small Group
- Glue stick, one for each Small Group

3. ILLUSTRATED MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22
- Print "Illustrated Memory Verse" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share

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 from the JOY Collage 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.**