

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Over and Over**  
Feast of Booths  
Deuteronomy 16:13-17

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make a habit of choosing joy.

### 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 need to make the wise choice.

### 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: Booth Builders  
Application Activity: Times of Day for Joy  
Memory Verse Activity: Duck, Duck, Jump "Up!"  
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. Thank God for loving us and making a way to fill our lives with joy despite what we face. Ask God to help the kids of your group to look to the things God has done as sources of joy, even when they don't feel it.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Over and Over**  
Feast of Booths  
Deuteronomy 16:13-17

**1. EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, and "Holiday Taboo Cards" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the cards from the "Holiday Taboo Cards" Activity Page.
- Determine which kid has the closest birthday.
- Instruct the kid with the closest birthday to select a card from the "Holiday Taboo Cards" Activity Page.
- Direct them to look at the card without letting the rest of the group see.
  - Help as needed if kids are unsure about the holiday on their card.
- Instruct the kid to give the group some clues about which holiday is on their card without saying the name of the holiday.
  - For example: if the holiday is "Christmas," they can say things like presents, stockings, jingle bells, but they cannot say "Christmas trees" or "Christmas cookies" since the word "Christmas" is in both of those things.
- Direct the first kid who guesses the holiday correctly to select the next card.
- If you finish all the cards with time left, play again. But this round, instruct the kids to only act out clues for each holiday.

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Make a habit of choosing joy.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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Proverbs 17:22, NIV

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

**Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I need to make the wise choice.**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal understanding  
and application



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Healthy and Unhealthy Habits” Activity Page, and prepared half sheets of paper

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Set the prepared half sheets (with a check mark and X) on either side of your small group area.
- Shuffle and set out the cards from the “Healthy and Unhealthy Habits” Activity Page face down in the center of the small group area.
- One at a time, instruct a kid to select a card, look at the picture, and decide if it is a healthy habit or unhealthy habit.
- If the habit is healthy, direct the kid to place the card near the check mark page.
- If the habit is unhealthy, direct the kid to place the card near the “X” page.
- Continue until all cards have been categorized.

## TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Some habits, like brushing your teeth and getting plenty of rest are good. And some, like biting your nails or eating too much candy—well, not so much! **[Transition]** Today, we’re going to talk about one habit that’s **ALWAYS** helpful.”

## TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Make a habit of choosing joy.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate  
what God is doing

## BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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



**\* 1. BOOTH BUILDERS**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Construction paper, craft sticks, glue sticks, and markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
• Give each child a piece of construction paper and a few

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**  
  
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- craft sticks.
- Set out the glue sticks and markers.
- Encourage the kids to arrange the craft sticks flat on the construction paper to resemble the shape of a shelter.
  - This can be a simple rectangle, square, or other similar structure.
- Once the kids have figured out how to arrange their craft sticks, instruct them to use the glue sticks to secure them to the paper.
- As the kids finish the outside structure with the craft sticks, instruct them to use the markers to draw their favorite party foods inside the structure.
- As they're working, review the following points from the Bible Story.
  - God told the Israelites to hold celebrations to remember what God had done for them, including a special festival called the Feast of Booths! They celebrated that God had provided crops/food to eat.
  - People would build temporary shelters or booths, and camped out, sharing meals together.
  - When Jesus came along, people had been celebrating the Feast of Booths for generations. Then Jesus came to be living water—to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever.
  - God wants us to make it a habit to stop and celebrate what God has done.
- As the kids finish, encourage the kids to share their "booths" with each other and point out their party foods.
- Make sure each kid's name is on their creation and set aside for pick up. (Help with writing as needed.)

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**  
  
**Make a habit of choosing joy.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**  
  
"A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up."  
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**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
"The Feast of Booths was a way for God's people to stop once a year and take time to celebrate all that God had done. It was a way for them to build the habit of finding joy because God is with us and provides for us! God wanted the Israelites to celebrate and God wants us to celebrate too!

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**  
  
**Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing**

"When Jesus came along, He made a way not just for our physical needs—like food and shelter—to be met, but He took care of our spiritual needs too! He made a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. God has done great things for us!

**BASIC TRUTH**  
  
**I need to make the wise choice.**

"The truth is, we won't always feel joyful. But when we stop and make it a habit to celebrate and be grateful for all that God has done, we WILL find joy. God has done so much for us, including sending Jesus! God loves us deeply so no matter what happens, we can **make a habit of choosing joy.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**(\* 1. BOOTH BUILDERS, CONTINUED)**

*[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about one habit you have in place to help you find joy and remember all that God has done for you. Maybe you spend time with God each morning, maybe you listen to worship music in the car on the way to work, maybe you pray each evening and thank God for blessings from that day. Try to give kids a concrete example of a simple habit you've put in place to help you celebrate all that God has done.)*

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



## 2. TIMES OF DAY FOR JOY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper plates, a pillow, a backpack, and a ball; *Optional: Use "Times of Day Items" Activity Page instead of paper plates, a pillow, a backpack, and a ball.*

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the items (or cards from the "Times of Day Items" Activity Page) in the center of your group area.
- Instruct the kids to circle up around the items.
- Join the circle yourself.
- Instruct the kid on your left to select an item or card.
- Lead the child to name that item and identify the time of day it represents.
- Once they've identified the item, lead the kids to talk about that time of day by reading from the scenarios below and asking the kid the question about how we can have joy.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**PLATES** *(If using the "Times of Day Items" Activity Page, read the scenario that corresponds with the food on the plate.)*

- **Breakfast:** You spill your milk ALL over your favorite hoodie right before school. What could you do in that moment to find joy? *(ie: clean yourself up and thank God that you have other things to wear)*
- **Lunch:** There's a kid sitting next to you who is being very quiet. What could you do to help him find some joy? *(ie: tell him a funny joke; invite him to play with you later at recess)*
- **Dinner:** Your little brother ate the last roll, and it was supposed to be yours. How can you find joy even when you're frustrated? *(ie: decide to forgive your little brother, and thank God for giving you a brother—even when he bugs you!)*

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make a habit of choosing joy.

### BACKPACK

- **School day:** Your teacher is sick, and you have a substitute. You really miss your teacher. How could you find joy? *(ie: make a get well card for your teacher)*

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Proverbs 17:22, NIV

### BALL

- **Anytime:** Your team lost the game after missing one goal at the very end. What could you do to find joy even when you're disappointed? *(ie: encourage teammates and remind them they'll be other games to win)*

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

### PILLOW

- **Bedtime:** While getting ready for bed with your parent, you remember a friend who was sad at school today. What could you do in that moment to find joy? *(ie: talk with a parent about ways you could cheer up your friend; you could pray for that friend together and thank God for giving you the chance to cheer them up)*

## BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (2. TIMES OF DAY FOR JOY. CONTINUED)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

“Every day, we have opportunities to **make a habit of choosing joy**. Even when you spill milk, or lose the game, or notice a friend who is sad, you can remember that God is with you and loves you. Even when things aren't going the way we want them to, we can pause and decide to look for joy instead of focusing on what's wrong. We can remember how God has helped us in the past and know that God will help us in the future. Let's take time every day and **make a habit of choosing joy**.”

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

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**3. DUCK, DUCK, JUMP "UP!"**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Proverbs 17:22.
- Read the verse aloud and lead the kids to repeat each line of the verse after you.
- Talk about the second part of the verse.
- Say: "A cheerful heart—a person who looks for joy in every situation can make you stronger and healthier. Looking for and finding joy can help you feel better!"
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Select a volunteer to go first.
- Recite the verse and lead kids to repeat the words of the verse as the volunteer taps their heads around the circle.
- When you get to the "up," instruct the kid whose head was tapped to jump up and chase the volunteer around the circle to reach the seat first.
  - If using the NIV, lead the rest of the group to finish reciting the verse as the other two kids run around the circle.
- Repeat until you've allowed every kid to be "it" and you've reviewed the Memory Verse several times.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"That was so fun! Healthy habits, like getting plenty of sleep and eating the right foods, can make us stronger. Our Memory Verse teaches us that a cheerful heart—a heart that looks for joy in all situations—makes us healthier and stronger too. That's why it's important to **make a habit of choosing joy.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

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

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**4. PRAY AND DISMISS**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

- WHAT YOU DO:**
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
  - Remind kids that one way to **make a habit of choosing joy** is by choosing to be grateful.
  - Invite the kids to take turns sharing one thing that they're thankful for.
    - Make sure you share an example too.
  - Close the group time in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
"When we make time to stop and say, 'thank You, God,' it helps us remember that all things we're thankful for come from God because God cares for us. Let's pray and thank God for everything so we can **make a habit of choosing joy**."

"Dear God, thank You for loving us and making a way for our lives to be filled with joy no matter what happens. We have so many things to be thankful for. Help us to remember to take time to celebrate all the good things in our lives, including the most joyful news of all—Jesus. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their booth creations and talk about how just like the Israelites, we can **make a habit of choosing joy**.



## 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 "Holiday Taboo Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Healthy and Unhealthy Habits" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Copy paper, one piece for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Cut the copy paper in half.
  - On one half of the sheet, draw a large check mark.
  - On the other half of the sheet, draw a large "X."

### 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.

#### \* 1. BOOTH BUILDERS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Construction paper, one piece for each kid

- Craft sticks, five or six for each kid
- Glue sticks, enough for a Small Group to share
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share

#### 2. TIMES OF DAY FOR JOY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Imagine:** an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper plates, three for each Small Group
- Pillow, one for each Small Group
- Backpack, one for each Small Group
- Ball, one for each Small Group
- *Optional: Instead of gathering paper plates, a pillow, a backpack, and a ball, print "Times of Day Items" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group.*

#### 3. DUCK, DUCK, JUMP "UP!"

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22

#### 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:**

- No supplies needed

### 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.**