

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Look Around
Joy in the Psalms
Psalms 8, 16, and 19

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Find joy in what you see around you.

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: Five Senses Story Review
Application Activity: Looking for Joy
Memory Verse Activity: Pass It on 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 MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Take some time to be quiet, then ask God to help you take notice of things and people around you as reminders of what God has given you. Ask God to help the kids of your group to remember to do the same.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Look Around

Joy in the Psalms
Psalms 8, 16, and 19

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, books about the five senses like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* or *Llama Llama Yum Yum Yum!* or *God's Wonderful World: A Book about the Five Senses*; *Optional:* device with internet capability

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Find joy in what you see around you.

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 books.
- Invite the kids to explore the books.
- Read the books aloud to the group (or show the video versions).
- Choose certain parts of each story to pause at—inviting the kids to stand up and reenact that part of the story.
 - This can be quick, silly, and as often as possible to keep kids engaged.
- Talk about the five senses and which sense the different stories talk about.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Five Senses Go Fish Cards" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Review the five senses with the kids: sight, smell, hearing,

touch, and taste.

- Shuffle the deck of cards from the "Five Senses Go Fish Cards" Activity Page.
- Give each kid five cards from the deck.
- Instruct the kids not to show their cards to anyone.
- Share that the goal of the game is to make as many matches as possible.
 - Explain that a match is two of the same sense cards.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Instruct the first kid to ask another kid if they have a specific card.
- If the second kid has the requested card, instruct that kid to hand it over to the kid who asked.
- Direct the kid with the match to place it on the floor in front of them.
- If a match is made, instruct the kid who made the match to go again.
- If the kid does not have a matching card, instruct them to draw a card and place any matches made in front of them.
- Direct the next kid in the circle to go next.
- Play until each kid no longer has cards.
- The kid with the most matches in front of them, wins!
 - *NOTE: Split the group in half if needed to speed up the game.*
- If time allows, shuffle cards and play again.
- Collect all the cards for Five Senses Story Review activity.
- Optional: If time allows, ask kids to help you sort all of the cards into separate piles for each sense.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was SO fun! You did a great job finding matches for each of our five senses. God gave us different abilities to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell! Which sense is your favorite? (*Invite responses.*) **[Transition] You gave some great answers! But I wonder what our five senses have to do with joy. Let's go find out!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

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1. FIVE SENSES STORY REVIEW
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Five Senses Go Fish Cards," dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, dry-erase eraser, and a marked Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid five cards from the "Five Senses Go Fish Cards" so every kid has one card for each of the five senses: sight, hear, touch, taste, and smell.
- Read each passage aloud from the marked Bible.
- For each passage from the Bible, encourage the kids to hold up the sense they hear from the reading.
 - Paraphrase parts of each passage after reading it to call attention to what sense the verse is getting at. It's possible more than one sense may be identified.
- After the Scriptures have been read, use the dry-erase board to draw different things God has given us to enjoy (suggestions below).
- Invite kids to identify which sense the drawing relates to by holding up one of their cards.
- Drawing suggestions:
 - Sight: a rainbow, the sun
 - Taste: a cookie, a banana, an ice cream cone
 - Touch: a teddy bear, falling rain or snow
 - Hear: a music note, a quote bubble that reads, "I love you."
 - Smell: a flower, a bottle of perfume

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God has given us a beautiful world with so many things to enjoy. David paid close attention to the amazing things and people that God created. We can use our senses to **find joy in what you see around you**. Let's pay attention this week when we hear the sound of a baby laughing, when we see a beautiful sunset, when we feel our favorite blanket, when we smell a yummy dessert, or when we taste our favorite pizza! There are so many wonderful things all around us that bring us joy! We just need to pay attention and stop to thank God for all that God has given us."

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time this week when you found joy in what you saw around you. It could be the sound of your child calling your name, the sight of a gorgeous sunrise, a splash in the cool water of a swimming pool on a hot day, a hug from a friend, etc.)

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. LOOKING FOR JOY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Toilet paper tubes, construction paper, scissors, tape, single hole punch, colored tape, yarn, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two toilet paper tubes.
- Set out the construction paper, markers, and tape in the center of your group area.
- Show the kids how to wrap their tubes in construction paper and secure with tape.
 - Help kids cut off any extra paper hanging from the edge of their tubes.
- As the kids finish taping, direct kids to decorate the paper on their tubes with the markers.
 - Instruct kids to write their names somewhere on the paper—help as needed.
- Once kids finish coloring, help them run some colored tape around both tubes to connect them like a pair of binoculars.
 - Use the single hole punch to punch a hole on either side of the top of each tube.
 - Run a piece of yarn through the holes and tie off each end into a knot to create a loop for the kids to hang the “binoculars” around their necks.
- Instruct the kids to hang their binocular creations around their necks.
- Encourage the kids to hold up their binoculars and look around the group space.
- Choose one kid to share what they see through their binoculars.
- Instruct the rest of the group to try to find the same thing while looking through their binoculars.
- Repeat until everyone has had the chance to share something they're looking at through their binoculars.
- Say: “Joy can be found everywhere—we just have to look for it!”
- Collect the binoculars and set them aside for the Prayer Activity.

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“You can **find joy in what you see around you**, but you have to LOOK for it! We can find joy by noticing people like family and friends, neighbors, and teammates. It’s amazing to see that God made people to be so different and special. We can find joy in things we love, like our favorite ice cream, comfy socks, and tail-wagging dogs! You can use these binoculars this week to find things you enjoy that bring you joy! And when you find those things, make sure to say, ‘Thank You, God!’ because God is always at work no matter what is going on around us.”

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



3. PASS IT ON MEMORY VERSE [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22, and a heart cutout

WHAT YOU DO:

- Select a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Proverbs

17:22.

- Read the verse aloud and invite the kids to say the verse with you.
- Talk about the last part of the verse.
- Say: "A person who misses out on joy has a broken spirit that 'dries up' that person. It leaves them feeling sad and worried. When we understand that God loves us and wants to bring us joy, we will feel strong, happy, and healthy! But when we forget that God is with us and that God cares for us, we may feel sad, broken, or missing something."
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the heart cutout.
- Instruct that kid to pass the heart cutout around the circle as you repeat the words of the verse.
- After you've said the verse a couple of times, encourage the kids to say the verse as they pass the heart cutout around the circle.
- See how quickly the kids can pass the heart as they repeat the verse.
- Change the direction the kids are reciting the verse and passing the heart cutout each round.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We have SO many things around us that bring us joy. From people who give us the best hugs, to ladybugs that land on our fingers, to sprinklers we can run through on a hot day. But the KEY to finding joy is to look for it! Let's remember that a cheerful heart makes us healthy! So this week, let's take time to **find joy in what you see around you**. And as you're enjoying that person or thing that brings you joy, be sure to stop and tell God 'thank You' for it!"

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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

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4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: Binoculars from Looking for Joy Activity

- WHAT YOU DO:**
- Give each kid the set of binoculars they made during the Looking for Joy Activity.
 - Instruct the kids to sit in a tight circle and hold up their binoculars.
 - If you did not do the Looking for Joy Activity, show kids how to form an open fist with both hands and hold them in front of their eyes like binoculars.
 - Say: "Take time to look around this week so you can **find joy in what you see around you.**"
 - As you pray, mention each kid by name as indicated below, thanking God for each one of them and the joy they bring you each week!

WHAT YOU SAY:
"Dear God, thank You for the wonderful world You've made for us to enjoy. This week, help us to pay attention with all of our senses so that we can find joy. Thank You for *(call out each child by name around the circle)* who bring ME joy every single week. Thank You for loving us and for our time together today. 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 binoculars as they talk about how you can **find joy in what you see around you.**

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

- Offering container
- Books about the five senses, like: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* or *Llama Llama Yum Yum Yum!* or *God's Wonderful World: A Book about the Five Senses*
- Optional: device with internet capability
- Before group time:
 - Search for video versions of the books listed above as an alternative to reading them to the group.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Five Senses Go Fish Cards" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart, one page for each kid

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.

1. FIVE SENSES STORY REVIEW [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Five Senses Go Fish Cards" from Opening Activity

- Dry-erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase eraser, one for each Small Group
- Bible marked at Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 19:1-4

* 2. LOOKING FOR JOY

[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:

- Toilet paper tubes, two for each kid
- Construction or colored paper, at least two pieces for each kid
 - Optional: Before group time:
 - Cut the paper to fit around the paper tubes, two for each kid
- Scissors, a few pairs for kids to share
- Tape, a few rolls for each Small Group
- Single hole punch, one for each Small Group
- Colored tape, a few rolls for each Small Group
- Yarn, one long piece for each kid
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share

3. PASS IT ON MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Proverbs 17:22
- Scissors
- Heart cutout
 - Before group time, cut a heart out of paper or cardstock

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:

- Binoculars from Looking for Joy Activity



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

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.**