



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and preschoolers. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your preschoolers for both Large and Small Group time.

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy
no matter what.

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY
HABAKKUK 3:17-18

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart
is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Joy Toss

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Start the Party"

Bible Story

Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Handy Tree

Roll and Fill

Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



WEEK
FIVE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



JOY TOSS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy Toss" Activity Page, cardstock, laundry baskets or plastic bins, ball pit balls or bean bags, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Joy Toss" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Tape each picture to a basket, one per basket. Line up the three joy baskets on one side of your activity area. Place a straight tape line on the floor about three to five feet from the baskets. Place balls or bean bags in the last basket and place this basket near the tape line.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to stand on the tape line and take turns tossing the balls/bean bags into the baskets and saying the Bottom Line.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come stand with me at this tape line. Look at the baskets over there. They each have a joyful picture on them. We're going to take turns tossing the balls/bean bags into the baskets."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's see how many we can get into the baskets. Ready to play? [Child's name], take a ball/bean bag and toss it! (Pause.) **I can have joy all the time.** Great job! [Child's name], take a ball/bean bag and toss it! (Continue with each child and repeat as desired.) Let's look and see how many balls/bean bags we got into the baskets. (Pause.) That was a fun game—even when we didn't make it into the baskets."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to hear a story about how we can have joy even when things don't go the way we want. I can't wait to hear our Bible Story!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting, "**I can have joy all the time.**"

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God loves me.



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FIVE
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SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



HANDY TREE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Handy Tree Label" Activity Page, Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent, large sheets of brown construction paper or butcher paper, paper plates, dot markers or washable markers, food stickers, glue sticks, scissors, pencil, and permanent marker; Option: circle stickers in a variety of colors in place of food stickers

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy
no matter what.

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY
HABAKKUK 3:17-18

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Handy Tree Label" on label paper, one label per child. Trace each child's hand and forearm in pencil on the brown construction paper and cut. Write each child's name on their hand cutout.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color their paper plate for the treetop and then glue their hand cutout to the plate. Ask children to add the food stickers and label to their tree.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart
is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come to the table. Put your hand on this paper with your fingers spread out like this. (*Trace child's hand and forearm, then cut out.*) Your arm and hand look like a tree trunk with branches! Let's use these to make a tree today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This paper plate can be the top of your tree! Use the markers to color your plate. (*Pause.*) Now glue your hand cutout to the plate so your tree has a trunk. (*Pause.*) Add the label and food stickers to your tree. (*Pause.*) Let's look at all the trees. Some of our trees have a little bit of food while the others have a lot. No matter if there is a little or a lot, or even none at all, we can have joy because God loves us!"

KEY QUESTION

Who can have joy all the time?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our story, Habakkuk talked to God and said that even if he had no figs, or grapes, or animals, he could have joy because he knew that God loved him. We can have joy ALL the time, even when things don't go the way we want, because God loves us. Habakkuk knew that God loved him all the time—and that would never change—and that gave him joy all the time. We can have joy all the time because God loves us too. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

BOTTOM LINE

I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



ROLL AND FILL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, washable markers, a large die, and a container of pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: On a piece of butcher paper, draw a large, simple tree. Lay the butcher paper on a table or the floor. Place the container of pom-poms and the die next to the butcher paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Roll the die and encourage each child to count out that number of pom-poms to add to the tree. Repeat as desired. Variations: Ask children to take turns rolling the die and adding that number of pom-poms. Ask children to add a certain color pom-pom at each roll.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come join me at the big tree!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our tree is empty. Let's play a game to fill it up! (Roll the die.) What number did the die land on? (Count with the children.) It landed on [number]! Everyone, pick [number] pom-poms and place them on the tree. (Pause.) Super-super! Let's roll again. (Continue until the tree is full, or you run out of pom-poms.) That was fun! Let's clear the tree and play again!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we can have joy because God loves us. It doesn't matter if our tree is full or if our tree is empty. We can have joy all the time because God loves us. **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.**"

BIBLE STORY

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, fun-shaped pen, heart stickers, and stickers or handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Proverbs 17:22.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Tell the children to smile their biggest smile as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and hand motions, then guide the children to put a heart sticker by their name as you write it in the journal.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children.

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KEY QUESTION

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BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to smile our biggest smiles while we walk to our Small Group spot. Show me your biggest smile! Wow! You have wonderful smiles! Now keep smiling and follow me to our Small Group spot! (*Smile as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Okay all of you wonderful, smiling faces, it's time to sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Habakkuk prayed to God and told Him that even if he didn't have any figs on his fig trees, he could have joy because God loved him. Even if he didn't have any grapes on his grapevines, he could have joy because God loved him. Even if his garden didn't grow any food, he could have joy because God loved him. Even if he didn't have any animals on his farm, he could have joy because God loved him. Wow! Habakkuk had joy all the time—no matter what he had or didn't have because he knew that God loved him. And we can have joy all the time too, because God loves you and **God loves me! Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!**"

"We have been learning a Bible verse about joy. It says, 'A joyful (*brush flat hands upward twice*) heart (*tap chest twice with fingertip*) is good medicine,' (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) Proverbs 17:22. (*Open hands like a book.*) I love this verse because it teaches us that choosing to have a joyful heart makes us feel better! Stand up with me and let's say that Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'A joyful (*brush flat hands upward twice*) heart (*tap chest twice with fingertip*) is good medicine,' (*move flat hand from chin to palm*) Proverbs 17:22. (*Open hands like a book.*)"



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SMALL GROUP
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STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"You sound amazing! (*Clap.*) Now I need everyone to sit down so we can take turns saying our Bible verse. Who's ready to try and say it by yourself? I have my stickers/handstamp ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try and say the Bible verse.*) Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your sticker/handstamp! (*Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.*) I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! (*Pause.*) Yay!" (*Clap.*)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, I am going to write your names in our prayer journal. When I say your name, you can put a heart sticker by your name in our journal, because God loves you! [Child's name]! (*Spell out name letter-by-letter.*) There! Now you can put this heart by your name because God loves [child's name]! (*Repeat this with each child. Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at our names! (*Hold up journal.*) We can have joy all the time because God loves us! Let's pray and thank God for loving us! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for loving (*say each child's name*). Knowing You love us helps us have joy all the time . . . no matter what! You're the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus' name. Amen."



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STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

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)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activity as your preschoolers arrive. Let one teacher lead the activity while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

JOY TOSS

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Joy Toss" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Laundry baskets or plastic bins, four per Small Group
- Ball pit balls or bean bags
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Joy Toss" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape each picture to a basket, one per basket.
- Place a straight tape line on the floor about three to five feet from the baskets.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

HANDY TREE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Handy Tree Label" Activity Page
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Large sheets of brown construction paper or butcher paper
- Paper plates
- Dot markers or washable markers
- Food stickers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Permanent marker
- Option: Use circle stickers in a variety of colors in place of food stickers.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Handy Tree Label" on label paper, one label per child.

ROLL AND FILL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Washable markers
- Large die
- Container of pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- On a piece of butcher paper, draw a large, simple tree.
- Lay on a table or the floor.
- Place the container of pom-poms and the die next to the tree.



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FIVE
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SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

GETTING READY

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

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)
- Heart stickers
- Stickers or handstamp

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Proverbs 17:22.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the memory verse card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and memory verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_StartTheParty_June