



WEEK
THREE
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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: Mirror, Mirror
Application Activity: Practice Empathy
Memory Verse Activity: Help Others Find Joy
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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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



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 the people God has placed in your life who have been present with you in times of happiness and in times of sadness. Ask God to help the kids in your group develop empathy like Jesus was empathetic.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly welcome each kid by name.
- Encourage kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask these questions to lead kids to compare their shoes.
 - Whose shoes are the longest? Shortest?
 - Whose have laces? Velcro®? Something else?
 - What's something that's the same about many of the shoes?
- If time allows, invite kids to share something fun they've done while wearing their particular shoes.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Philippians 4:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose one kid, move closer to them, and say, "I promise to help you smile."
 - Try to make them smile by doing: funny faces, silly dances, weird noises—anything at all!
- When you succeed in making them smile (or when enough time has gone by), direct that kid to turn to the kid beside them and continue the game.
 - Share ideas with the kids if they don't know what to do such as singing a silly song, making a funny face, or another action suited to their personality.
 - Join in on the silliness if they don't want to be doing it alone!

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did a GREAT job helping each other find your smiles! **[Transition]** In Large Group we'll hear about something else that's important to help others find. Let's go discover more."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

* 1. MIRROR, MIRROR

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get into pairs.
 - If you have an odd number in your group, pair yourself with a kid.
- Direct the pairs to sit or stand facing each other.
- Give one kid in each group a "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page.
- Instruct that kid to imitate each emoji face on the "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page, holding each expression so their partner can mimic them as if they were a mirror.
- Encourage kids to switch roles and play again.
 - Make sure kids who did not start with the "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page do so for this next round.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job reflecting how your partner was feeling back to them! In the book of Romans, Paul wrote about what loving others can really look like. He said: *Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad (Romans 12:15, NIRV)*. You can use your imagination to think about how you would feel if what happened to someone else happened to you. Sometimes we call that 'putting yourself in someone else's shoes.' It's also called *empathy*, and it can help you be a really good friend! It can also show others God's love.

"So, when might someone you know be happy? (*Invite responses, like: when they go to camp, celebrate a birthday, get a new toy, get to the next level on a game, etc.*) When might someone you know be sad? (*Invite responses, like: when they lose a game, get sick, when a pet dies, etc.*) When someone is happy, practice celebrating with them. You can give them a fist bump, cheer them on, or say, 'Good job!' When someone is sad, practice listening and being with them. You can even say, 'I'm sorry that happened to you. I'd be sad too.'

"The more you learn to 'put yourself in someone else's shoes,' the more you'll be able to show God's love to others. It's like Paul wrote: *Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad (Romans 12:15, NIRV)*. Because when you are, **you can help others find joy.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



2. PRACTICE EMPATHY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Empathy Examples" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Say: "Empathy is using your imagination to think how YOU would feel if what happened to someone else happened to you."
- Instruct the kids to stand up and spread out.
- One at a time, show the kids one of the "Empathy Examples" Activity Pages, being sure each kid can see it.
- Invite a volunteer to say what's happening in the picture.
- Ask the kids to use their imaginations to think about how they would feel in that scenario.
- Pause for a minute to allow the kids time to practice empathy.
- Instruct the kids to respond to the scenario in one of the following ways:
 - If the person is happy, instruct the kids to dance to celebrate.
 - If the person is sad, instruct the kids to sit quietly.
- Continue until all of the scenarios have been talked about.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job imagining what it must feel like to experience different things. Empathy can help you be a really good friend! It can also help you show others how much God loves them. Having empathy isn't always easy, but it IS something you can learn. When we follow Jesus, we can learn to see and respond to others like Jesus did. You can start by practicing celebrating when someone you know is happy, and listening and just being with them when they're sad.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you used your imagination to think how someone else might feel. You may have seen someone sitting by themselves—looking lonely—and went over to be with them; or your friend may have beaten you in a game and you chose to congratulate them because they were happy.)

"Look for opportunities to imagine how others might feel, just like Jesus has done for us. **You can help others find joy.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



3. HELP OTHERS FIND JOY

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, playdough, and paper plates

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, Philippians 4:4,

using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine

Be Joyful with Others

Romans 12:15

(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Philippians* at the top of the page as you say "Philippians" aloud. Then guide kids to find the big number 4 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 4 for the little 4; 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

You can help others find joy.

***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 *Philippians* in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that *Philippians* starts with the letters P-H. When the kids find *Philippians*, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find *Philippians*. Help the kids find the page. When they find *Philippians*, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 4.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"

Philippians 4:4, NIV

- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Invite anyone else who would like to read (or repeat) the Memory Verse to do so.
- Ask kids to share some ways they can find joy—even if they don't feel joyful in that moment.
- Prompt them with ideas, as needed, like:
 - Think about the people who love them and help them.
 - Think about how much God loves them.
 - Think about places that make them feel safe.
- Give each kid a lump of playdough and a paper plate.
- Instruct the kids to sculpt something that reminds them of one of the joyful examples mentioned.
- Invite kids to share their creations with the group.
- Alternatively, guide kids to form the letters "JOY" with the playdough.
- Collect the playdough and dispose of the plates.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our Memory Verse reminds us to always be joyful. God knows that it's not always easy to be joyful. That's why it's important for us to help others find joy.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. HELP OTHERS FIND JOY, CONTINUED)

“One way you can help others be joyful is by putting yourself in their shoes. Does that mean you ACTUALLY put on someone else's shoes? No! 'Putting yourself in someone else's shoes' means using your imagination to think how YOU would feel if what happened to them happened to YOU. It can help you be a really good friend! It can also help YOU help OTHERS find joy. So this week, remember: **you can help others find joy.**”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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:

- Option 1:** The Rabbit Listened or Beneath by Cori Doerrfeld
- Option 2:** "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page from Mirror, Mirror Activity

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

Option 2

WHAT YOU DO:

- Read *The Rabbit Listened* or *Beneath* by Cori Doerrfeld.
- Read with expression, modeling empathy for the main character with your voice and your body language.
- As you read, ask a few questions to talk about empathy. For example:
 - How do you think _____ [character] feels?
 - When have you felt the same way as _____ [character]?
 - What do you think is going to happen next?
 - What was your favorite part of the story?
- Close the group in prayer.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

Option 2

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hold the "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page.
- Point to a few emojis and ask:
 - How do you think this person feels?
 - When have you felt _____ [emotion]?
- Close the group in prayer.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for showing us that when we use our imaginations to think about how others feel, we can show them how much You love them. This week, help us practice celebrating when someone else is happy and listening and just being with them when they're sad. Help us show others Your AMAZING love, and help us help others find joy. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today's Bottom Line: **you can help others find joy.**

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

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. MIRROR, MIRROR

[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:

- Print the "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every two kids

2. PRACTICE EMPATHY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Empathy Examples" Activity Pages on cardstock, one set for each Small Group

3. HELP OTHERS FIND JOY

[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:

- Bibles (marked at Philippians 4:4 for Kindergarteners), one for each kid
- Playdough, one lump for each kid
- Paper plates, one for each kid

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:

Option 1

- *The Rabbit Listened* or *Beneath* by Cori Doerrfeld

Option 2

- Print "Mirror, Mirror" Activity Page from Mirror, Mirror 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.