

SECTION

4.2 | *Discovery of Joy*



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Joyous Occasions

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to think of a time when they were full of joy (e.g., a birthday, family celebration, vacation, the birth of a sibling). Encourage volunteers to share their memories.

STEP 2: After a few moments, ask the following questions:

- What about that memory made you happy?
- How do you feel when you think about that memory now?
- Do you still feel that same happiness today that you felt then? Why or why not?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We can remember moments in our lives that brought us happiness.
- Feelings of happiness can come and go, because happiness is based on what is going on in our lives.
- Joy is different from happiness that is based on our lives. God wants us to discover true joy that comes from a relationship with Him.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of discovering joy.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: A Spark of Joy

What You'll Need: Computer and printer or smartphone and tablet

PREP: Search online or in books or magazines for images that spark feelings of happiness (e.g., puppies, baby animals, funny images, yummy desserts).

Optional: Search for a video of animals or babies that sparks feelings of happiness. Be prepared to show it to the kids

STEP 1: Display the images that spark happiness. (Optional: Show the video that sparks feelings of happiness.)

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- How do you feel when you look at these pictures (or watch this video)?
- Why do these pictures (or video) make you feel that way?
- Do you feel this way all the time? Why or why not?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We can all remember moments in our lives that brought us happiness.
- Feelings of happiness can come and go, because happiness is based on what is going on in our lives.
- Joy is different from happiness that is based on our lives. God wants us to discover true joy that comes from a relationship with Him.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of discovering joy.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Scenes of Joy

What You'll Need: Bibles, paper, pens or pencils, markers or colored pencils

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

STEP 1: Explain to kids that they will work together to create their own comic scenes from Acts 3:1-9. Divide kids into three groups, and give each group several sheets of paper. Place pens or pencils, markers or colored pencils nearby. Have all kids turn to Section 4.2 in their handbooks and Acts 3 in their Bibles. Have leaders help kids find the verses in their Bibles.

Assign each group one of the following sections: Acts 3:1-3, Acts 3:4-6, Acts 3:7-10. Give groups four minutes to work together to create comic-style images of the scenes that take place in their verses.

STEP 2: After four minutes, ask the first group to present their comic scenes from Acts 3:1-3.

Share these key concepts:

- The lame man had little reason to be joyful.
- In Bible times, a man who was lame, or couldn't walk, would not be able to work. He would have been completely dependent on others.
- The gate called Beautiful was a common entrance to the temple, and many people would pass by the gate every day. Asking for alms was his way of begging people for money.

STEP 3: Ask the second group to present their comic scenes from Acts 3:4-6.

Share these key concepts:

- Peter and John were bold witnesses for Jesus Christ. They had the power of the Holy Spirit who lived in them.
- They did not have money to give to the man, but they did have something better: they had the good news of Jesus Christ to share.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they were able to heal the lame man in Jesus' name.

STEP 4: Ask the third group to present their comic scenes from Acts 3:7-10.

Share these key concepts:

- The lame man realized God's love and healing power. He was thankful for what God had done for him.
- His life was changed forever. He would now be able to hold a job and be a part of his society.
- He also had the hope and joy from Jesus Christ that he could share with others.
- The people who saw the healed man were amazed that he had been healed.

STEP 5: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 16:11. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- When we accept Jesus as Savior, we have the promise of abundant life.
- When we study God's Word and draw close to Him, we can be full of joy, even when tough things are going on in our lives.
- When we grow in our relationship with God, we will experience God's blessings of peace and contentment and hope.
- We also have the hope that we get to spend eternity with God in heaven (John 3:16).

STEP 6: Ask kids to think about their own lives. Have they discovered God's joy? Remind them that they can choose joy, no matter what their circumstances are like.

Ask kids to pray silently and ask God to help them know Him better so their lives reflect the joy that comes from Him.

STEP 7: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Discovering God's Joy

What You'll Need: Bibles, Directions to Joy Handout, pens or pencils.

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Print copies of the Directions to Joy Handout, one copy per kid. Bookmark Bibles to the following references: Psalm 51:10-12, Psalm 5:11, John 15:10-11.

STEP 1: : Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 16:11. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God's Word shows us how we can have eternal life by accepting Jesus as Savior.
- When we accept Jesus as Savior, we have the promise of abundant life.
- When we study God's Word and draw close to Him, we will be full of joy, no matter what may be going on in our lives.
- When we grow in our relationship with God, we will experience God's blessings of peace and contentment and hope.
- We also have the hope that we get to spend eternity with God in heaven (John 3:16).

STEP 2: Explain to kids that God's Word is our map to help us discover how to have joy in our lives. Give each kid a copy of the Directions to Joy Handout and a pen or pencil.

Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 51:10-12.

Share these key concepts:

- If we admit we are sinners and believe that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for our sin, we will be saved (Romans 10:9-10).
- Even after we accept Jesus as Savior, we still sin. We are still saved, but our sin keeps us from being close to God, and we do not have God's joy in our lives when we are struggling with sin.
- When we ask God to forgive our sin, He restores His joy in our lives.

STEP 3: : Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 5:11.

Share these key concepts:

- Trusting God means that we know that He is good and that He has a good plan for our lives.
- Even when we are going through hard times, we can know that God will work in those situations to bring about good in our lives and help us grow closer to Him.
- When we trust God, He gives us joy.

Have kids find the Psalm 5:11 location on their handouts and write the word "trust" next to it.

Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 51:10-12.

Share these key concepts:

- If we admit we are sinners and believe that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for our sin, we will be saved (Romans 10:9-10).
- Even after we accept Jesus as Savior, we still sin. We are still saved, but our sin keeps us from being close to God, and we do not have God's joy in our lives when we are struggling with sin.
- When we ask God to forgive our sin, He restores His joy in our lives.

Have kids find the Psalm 51:10-12 location on their handouts and write the word "forgiveness" next to it.

STEP 4: Ask a volunteer to read John 15:10-11.

Share these key concepts:

- God's Word gives us instructions on how God wants us to live our lives.
- When we keep His commandments, or instructions, we will grow closer in our relationship with Him, and our lives will be transformed to be more like Jesus.
- We will then discover that our lives are full of His joy.

Have kids find the John 15:10-11 location on their handouts and write the word "obedience" next to it.

STEP 5: Have kids look over their handouts.

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Main Lesson Activity Continued (10 Minutes)

Ask the following questions:

- Where are you on your journey to discover God's joy?
- Do you need to ask God to forgive you for a sin that you are struggling with?
- Do you need to trust God in a struggle you are facing?
- Do you need to obey God's Word better?

Encourage kids to circle the location that best describes where they are on their journey to discovering joy.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:

Directions to Joy Handout

