

2 YEAR -OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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.
Fruit on the Tree
Shape Sorting
Parts of the Story

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.

Bookmark Verse Nothing but Joy I Have JOY! JOY!

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home Memory Verse Card Parent Cue Card (print or email) Parent Cue App



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SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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

BIBLE STORY

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1. FRUIT ON THE TREE

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, painter's tape, circle sticky notes in three different colors, and washable markers to match the sticky notes; Optional: circle stickers in place of sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Draw three trees spaced apart on the butcher paper. Color each tree trunk a different color to match the sticky notes. Tape to the wall at child's height.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a sticky note. Encourage them to put it on the tree of the same color. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, look at these three trees! There is a [color] tree, a [color] tree, and a [color] tree! And I have these circle sticky notes that are the same color as the trees!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's pretend these are fruit trees and our circles are fruit. When I give you a fruit, go and match it to the same color tree. Ready? Let's go! (*Pause.*) Come get another one, and let's fill the trees! (*Pause.*) Wow, friends! You made our trees full of fruit. Great job putting different-colored fruit on the tree."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we're going to hear a story about someone who had joy even when there was no fruit on his trees."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking the children to pretend to pick fruit from a tree.



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MADE TO PLAY

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



2. SHAPE SORTING

together to push each shape through its matching spot on the toy.

WHAT YOU NEED: Shape-sorter toy

WHAT YOU DO:

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the shape-sorter toy in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to work

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy no matter what.

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY HABAKKUK 3:17-18

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me and look at this neat toy."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This is called a shape sorter. It has a lot of different shapes that go with it, and every shape has a spot. Pick a shape. (*Pause.*) Can you find the spot it fits in? (*Pause.*) It might be hard, but you can do it! (*Pause.*) Sometimes it's hard to figure it out, but you can do it! Keep trying until you get it in its spot. (*Pause.*) Nice! Pick another shape. (*Pause.*) Can you find the spot it fits in? (*Repeat as long as desired.*) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I love how you kept trying until you found the matching spot. Today we'll hear more about how a man named Habakkuk prayed to God, even when he faced some tough stuff. Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking children to raise their arms over their heads to make a circle, triangle, or heart. Demonstrate each arm position as you call out a different shape.

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



I can have joy

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY HABAKKUK 3:17-18

MEMORY VERSE

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3. PARTS OF THE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic bin; Little People® man; toy food (*including a grape cluster*); toy sheep, cows, and other farm animals; foam hearts; and paper shreds

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all the items in the bin and cover them with paper shreds.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to take turns pulling the different items from the bin. Talk about each of the items.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! I'm so happy to see you today! Come sit with me at the table and let's explore what's inside this bin!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child's name], reach in the bin and pull out one thing. (*Pause.*) What did you pull out? Wow! It's a [name of item]! What sound does a [animal] make? (*Pause.*) That's right! [Child's name], your turn to pull out one thing. (*Pause.*) What did you find? Wow! It's a [heart/bunch of grapes]! [Hearts make me think of love. Grapes are yummy to eat!] That was so much fun finding each of these things!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to hear about all of the things we found in the bin in our Bible story today."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to walk like the different farm animals from the activity.



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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

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy no matter what.

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY HABAKKUK 3:17-18

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1. BOOKMARK VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bookmark Verse" and "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent, dot markers, stamps, washable ink pads, baby wipes, scissors, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Bookmark Verse" on cardstock and cut, one bookmark per child. Write each child's name on their bookmark. Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their bookmarks with markers and stamps. Say the verse together several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Do the motions as you say the verse one more time and review the Bottom Line. Give each child a sticker.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here! Let's do the motions as we say our verse together. Everybody ready? '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.) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I have something neat for us to make today. It's a bookmark with our verse on it. Use the markers and stamps to decorate both sides of your paper. (*Pause.*) Great! You can take this home and put it in your Bible! Let's say the words to our verse. 'A joyful heart is good medicine,' Proverbs 17:22. Super-duper!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our verse one more time, but with the motions this time. '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.) Nice job. Here is your Memory Verse Sticker! We know that God loves us, so we can have joy all the time. Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time."



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MADE TO PLAY

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

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy

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I can have joy all the time.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



2. NOTHING BUT JOY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Nothing but Joy" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, painter's tape, empty containers with removable lids, and foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Nothing but Joy" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Tape one card to each lid.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the three containers in front of you and the foam hearts within reach. Use the empty containers and hearts as you review the Bible Story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Come sit with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story, a man named Habakkuk prayed to God. He told God that even if his trees didn't grow any figs, he would still have joy because God loved him. A fig is a fruit. Which of these containers has a fig on it? (Pause.) Yes! This is a yummy fig. Do you think there are figs in here? Let's open it and see. (Open the lid.) No figs in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It's empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God loved him! Let's put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk! (Give each child a foam heart to put in the container.)

"Habakkuk told God that even if his grapevines didn't grow any grapes, he would still have joy because God loved him. Which of these containers has grapes on it? (Pause.) Yes! These are grapes. Do you think there are grapes in here? Let's open it and see. (Open the lid.) No grapes in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It's empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God loved him! Let's put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk! (Give each child a foam heart to put in the container.)

"Habakkuk told God that even if his farm didn't have any animals, he would still have joy because God loved him. Which of these containers has animals on it? (Pause.) Yes! These are cows and sheep! Do you think there are cows and sheep in here? Let's open it and see. (Open the lid.) No animals in here. (Turn upside down and shake.) It's empty! But Habakkuk still had joy because God loved him! Let's put some hearts in here because God loved Habakkuk!" (Give each child a foam heart to put in the container.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Habakkuk had joy all the time because he knew that God loved him. God loves you and God loves me, so you can have joy all the time too! Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. I HAVE JOY!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool-safe floor mirror

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in the activity area.

BIBLE STORY

I can have joy no matter what.

GOD WILL GIVE US JOY HABAKKUK 3:17-18

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit over here with me."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child's name], run to the mirror. Who do you see? (Pause.) [Child's name]: Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time! Run back and sit with us. (Continue with each child.) Everyone, come to the mirror with me and tell me: Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call each child by name, one at a time. Encourage them to run to the mirror and say, "I can have joy all the time!" Ask the child

to run back to the group and sit. Continue until each child has had a turn.

Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time! One more time! Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time!

MEMORY VERSE

"A joyful heart is good medicine."

PROVERBS 17:22, ESV

KEY QUESTION

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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

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.



4. JOY! [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "JOY!" Activity Page, cardstock, craft sticks, dot markers, clear tape, scissors, and a permanent marker; *Optional: camera*

WHAT YOU DO: Copy "JOY!" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their mouth cutouts with the markers. Help tape each child's mouth cutout onto a craft stick. *Option:* Encourage each child to hold their JOY mouths up to theirs and take a picture. Email/text each child's picture after the service.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come join me at the table. Look at this fun joyful mouth! It has the word 'JOY' right in the middle of it! We've been learning that we can have joy all the time!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Use the markers to decorate your joyful mouth cutout. (*Pause.*) Great! Now let's tape it to a craft stick so you have a handle to hold it. (*Help tape each child's mouth to a craft stick.*) Hold it up to your mouth and tell me: **Who can have joy all the time? I can have joy all the time.** That's right!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our story, we learned about a man named Habakkuk. Habakkuk told God that even if he didn't have the things he wanted, he would still have joy because God loved him. He 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."



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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 handson fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible Story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. FRUIT ON THE TREE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Butcher paper
- Painter's tape
- Circle sticky notes in three different colors
- Washable markers to match the sticky notes
- Option: Use circle stickers in place of sticky notes.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Draw three trees spaced apart on the butcher paper.
- Color each tree trunk a different color.
- Tape to the wall at child's height.

2. SHAPE SORTING

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

Shape-sorter toy

3. PARTS OF THE STORY

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- · Plastic bin
- Little People® man
- Toy food (including a grape cluster)
- Toy sheep, cows, and other farm animals

- Foam hearts
- Paper shreds

WHAT YOU DO:

• Place all the items in the bin and cover them with paper shreds.

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

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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 kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. BOOKMARK VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE 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:

- "Bookmark Verse" Activity Page
- "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #5294 or equivalent
- Dot markers
- Stamps
- Washable ink pads
- Baby wipes
- Scissors
- · Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Bookmark Verse" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their bookmark.
- Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.



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2. NOTHING BUT JOY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Nothing but Joy" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Painter's tape
- Empty containers with removable lids, three per Small Group
- Foam hearts

WHAT YOU DO:

• Copy "Nothing but Joy" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

3. I HAVE JOY!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

Preschool-safe floor mirror

4. JOY!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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:

- "JOY!" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Craft sticks
- Dot markers
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Optional: camera

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "JOY!" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

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



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GETTING READY

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