

Unboxed: Find the Joy

WEEK
TWO

DECEMBER 2019

GRADES
2-3

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

BIBLE STORY

The Weary World Rejoices
The Coming Birth of
John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

MEMORY VERSE

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

LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be
happy even when things
don't go your way**

BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because
anything is possible with God.**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only
Create the Environment
Monthly Overview

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers
Minute to Build It

25
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener
Bible Story
Worship
Prayer
Closer

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"Joy to the World" from *Jingle Jam: Songs for the Season*
"I've Got Joy" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Cane You Do It?
Joy Is Possible
Joyful Letters
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime
Parent Cue

GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Candy canes; one for each kid

MINUTE TO BUILD IT

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 100 plastic cups (for added fun, use green cups)
- Timer or stopwatch

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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. CANE YOU DO IT?**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Cane You Do It?" Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group
 - (Note: If you have more than 10 kids in your group, print two Activity Pages for each team in the group.)
- Two containers big enough to hold a few candy canes
- Candy canes; one for each kid (can be the same ones from "Early Arriver") plus 10 more
 - Tape each "Cane You Do It?" Activity Page card to a candy cane.
 - Place five of these candy canes in each container.
 - Set aside the other candy canes.

*** 2. JOY IS POSSIBLE****[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]**

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Joy Is Possible" Activity Page; one for each kid
- White cardstock; one piece for each kid
- Red and green markers; enough for group to share
- Scissors; one for each kid
- Glue sticks; one for each kid

3. JOYFUL LETTERS**[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:

- Print the "Joyful Letters" Activity Page and cut apart; three sets for each small group
- Three sandwich baggies; put one set of "Joyful Letters" into each baggie
- Three Bibles

PRAYER**[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]**

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

The Weary World Rejoices
The Coming Birth of
John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80



CONNECT

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

LIFE APP

Joy—Finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way

BOTTOM LINE

You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help kids know what's possible with His power! Pray that this joy would bring comfort to the kids for whom Christmas is not always a fun, exciting, and magical time of year.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Candy canes, offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, ask them: "What is something impossible you wish you could do?" Prompt them with examples such as:
 - "Maybe it's a superpower you wish you had."
 - "Maybe it's something silly like riding a dinosaur up Mt. Everest!"
- After each kid has had a turn to answer, give them each a candy cane and instruct them to balance it on their forehead for as long as they can.
- Encourage kids to compete against each other for fun!
- Collect the candy canes and save them for the review activity later.
- Let kids put their offerings in the offering container.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

The Weary World Rejoices
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EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on
experimentation and discovery

MEMORY VERSE

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you belong to the Lord.
I will say it again. Be joyful!**
Philippians 4:4, NIV

LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be
happy even when things
don't go your way**

BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because
anything is possible with God.**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

2. MINUTE TO BUILD IT

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cups

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of two, and give each group half of the plastic cups.
- Explain that each group will race to build the tallest Christmas tree (basically just a pyramid shape) in one minute using the plastic cups.
- Whichever team has the tallest Christmas tree wins!
- Play a few rounds or as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all have some quality Christmas-tree-building skills! If I had known, I would have asked you to put up my Christmas tree this year. There were times when I noticed your tree building to be challenging, and it was especially difficult to build a super-tall tree in only one minute, wasn't it? **[Transition] Today in Large Group, listen for how you can have joy even when doing hard things!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW

BIBLE STORY

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The Coming Birth of
John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

MEMORY VERSE

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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MOVE

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

1. CANE YOU DO IT?

WHAT YOU NEED: Containers of prepared candy canes, extra candy canes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two teams and instruct each team to form a line.
- Place the containers of candy canes in front of each of the groups, either on a table or on the floor. *(Note: If you have more than 10 kids in your group, each team should get a full set of questions.)*
- Give each kid a candy cane without a question card attached.
- When the game starts, the first person in each line will put the end of the candy cane in their mouth, so the hook is face down.
 - Then they will bend down and use the candy cane to hook another candy cane from the container.
 - Kids must answer the review question, and then it's the next kid's turn.
- Stand between the teams' containers so you can be ready to hear their answers to the questions. (Correct answers are below.)
- Remind your crew that they may not walk with candy canes in their mouth.
- The first team to retrieve all the question cards and answer the questions correctly wins!

Answers to review questions:

1. What were the names of the older couple in the story today? (*Zechariah and Elizabeth*)
2. What was the great sadness in Zechariah and Elizabeth's life? (*They did not have children*)
3. Which priest was chosen to go into the Holy Place? (*Zechariah*)
4. Who did Zechariah see inside the Holy Place? (*Gabriel*)
5. What did the angel say to Zechariah inside the Holy Place? (*That he was going to have a son*)
6. What did the angel say that Zechariah was supposed to name the baby? (*John*)
7. What happened to Zechariah since he did not believe Gabriel's words? (*He could not talk*)
8. What did Gabriel say John would grow up to do? (*Prepare everyone's hearts for the amazing gift God was sending, Jesus!*)
9. Who had a baby at an old age? (*Elizabeth*)
10. Was Zechariah ever able to talk again? (*Yes, when John was born*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



MOVE

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! That was a pretty challenging task, and you still rocked it! What part did you think was the most difficult? (*Allow time for responses.*) Hooking the candy cane did seem impossible at times. Zechariah and Elizabeth experienced God making the impossible possible. How do you think they must have felt when they learned that the very thing they never thought could happen was going to happen because of God? (*Excited, scared, confused*) Their story reminds me to be encouraged whenever I'm facing something that seems impossible. Whether I'm trying to hook a candy cane with another candy cane or I'm facing an actual hard situation I will remember that **you can have joy because anything is possible with God.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



CONNECT

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

BIBLE STORY

The Weary World Rejoices

The Coming Birth of
John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

MEMORY VERSE

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LIFE APP

**Joy—Finding a way to be
happy even when things
don't go your way**

BOTTOM LINE

**You can have joy because
anything is possible with God.**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

* 2. JOY IS POSSIBLE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Joy Is Possible" Activity Pages, white cardstock, markers, scissors, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and scissors.
- Encourage them to cut out the JOY outline.
- Then give each kid a piece of cardstock and tape.
- Instruct them to tape their "joy" template onto the piece of cardstock, using just a couple small rolls of tape to hold it in place.
- Encourage kids to think through various things that are hard for them.
- Prompt them with examples such as:
 - "Maybe you're scared you're not going to do well on the last spelling test of the year."
 - "Maybe you don't want Christmas break to start because your mom has to work and you're going to be at boring day camp."
 - "Maybe you're trying to learn how to play a sport or a video game, and it's not going well."
- As you pass out markers, instruct kids to write as many scenarios as they can all over their paper (including on top of the Joy template.)
- The paper needs to be completely covered in words, so kids can repeat some of their thoughts and ideas.
- Instruct them to write words on top of words, so they end up with a jumble of text.
- Once they are finished, encourage them to carefully peel off their joy template from the cardstock, revealing the word "JOY" in the midst of all of their difficult scenarios.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Would anyone mind sharing one of their difficult scenarios? (Allow time for kids to share.) You all really came up with some great examples! **[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of something that's hard or challenging for you, or something you want to happen, but it hasn't yet come to fruition. Talk about how you gain joy from serving such a powerful God.)** Whatever challenging situation is thrown your way, **you can have joy because anything is possible with God.**"

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SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
ACTIVITY



PLAY

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

BIBLE STORY

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BASIC TRUTH

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3. JOYFUL LETTERS

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared plastic baggies of letters, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review this month's memory verse together out loud.
- Divide your group into three teams.
- Give each team a bag of memory verse letters and a Bible.
- As soon as you say, "Go," they will look up Philippians 4:4 in the Bible.
- When they find the verse, they will begin spelling out each word in order, using their tile letters.
- The first team to get the entire memory verse spelled out correctly wins!
- Read the verse out loud again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all did an amazing job at finding every single one of those letters and spelling out that long verse! Can anyone tell me what this verse means to them? (*Allow time for responses.*) Great job! Our verse tells us that because we belong to God, we always have a reason to be joyful! We learned this week that **you can have joy because anything is possible with God**, but we can also be joyful because we are sons and daughters of the God of the impossible! How awesome is that?"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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The Coming Birth of
John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage your group to pray this prayer with you.
- Pause where each (repeat) is written and allow kids to repeat the words.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God. *(Repeat.)* Thank You for showing me that nothing is impossible through You! *(Repeat.)* When I'm faced with something hard and I don't see a way out *(repeat)* I know that You can always help me. *(Repeat.)* I thank You so much for letting me belong to You, the God of the impossible! *(Repeat.)* Help me be a light to others and to teach them *(repeat)* that **you can have joy because anything is possible with God.** *(Repeat.)* In Jesus' name, amen!" *(Repeat.)*

As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid display their "Joy Is Possible" page. Ask them to tell their adults about one of impossible/challenging situations they wrote down.