

Unboxed: Find the Joy

WEEK
TWO

DECEMBER 2019

GRADES
K-1

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

252 KIDS

TEAM

CEO

Reggie Joiner

DIRECTOR OF MESSAGING

Kristen Ivy

DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS STRATEGY

Mike Clear

CREATIVE TEAM

Molly Bell
Elloa Davis
Elizabeth Hansen
Brandon O'Dell
Greg Payne
Phil Pierce
Dan Scott
Mike Tiemann
Jon Williams

WRITERS

Becky Jarrett
Nicole Jones
Rachael Macaluso
Erin Mashaw
Julie Tiemann
Dana Wilkerson

EDITORS

Molly Bell
Dana Wilkerson

ORANGE SPECIALIST

Abbey Carr
Amy Fenton
Amy Grisham
Barbara Graves
Terri Jones
Misty Phillips
Stephanie Porter
Jackie Raihl
Annette Stickney
Phil Summers
Courtney Templeton
Gay Tucciarone

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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
True or False Stories

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

Finish the Pictures
Amazing Plastic Bag
Silent Relay
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:

- An offering container
- Paper
- Crayons

TRUE OR FALSE STORIES

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "True or False Stories" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Bible

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. FINISH THE PICTURES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Finish the Pictures" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Pencils
- Crayons

*** 2. AMAZING PLASTIC BAG**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Several quart-sized zip-top baggies (make sure they're not freezer bags)
- Sharpened pencils; one for each kid and SGL
- Pitcher of water
- Large, shallow plastic tub
- Paper towels

3. SILENT RELAY

[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 "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Pages and cut apart; two sets for each small group

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

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.

LIFE APP

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

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group, and collect their offerings as they arrive.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and some crayons.
- Tell them to draw a picture of the craziest thing they've ever seen someone do.
- (If necessary, remind kids to keep it appropriate.)
- Allow kids to share their pictures and stories with each other.

BOTTOM LINE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

BIBLE STORY

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



PLAY

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

LIFE APP

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

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

2. TRUE OR FALSE STORIES

WHAT YOU NEED: "True or False Stories" Activity Page, Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Designate one side of your Small Group area as the "false" side and one side as the "true" side.
- Read the first story from the Activity Page.
- Allow time for kids to move to the side of their choice before revealing whether it was true or false.
- Encourage kids to make their own decisions, instead of following whatever their friends think.
- Continue with the rest of the stories.
- Two of the stories are from the Bible. If kids show interest in these stories, and you have time, look them up and read them to the group.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those were some crazy stories that seemed impossible, but they were all true. Well, all but the one that was ALMOST true! I kind of tricked you on that one.

[Transition] Let's go to Large Group where we'll hear another story that will almost seem impossible."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

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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you belong to the Lord.
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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.

1. FINISH THE PICTURES

WHAT YOU NEED: "Finish the Pictures" Activity Pages, pencils, crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and a pencil.
- Ask kids what they think is going on in the first picture.
- Tell kids to connect the dots to finish the picture.
- Review what happened during that part of today's Bible story.
- Repeat for each picture.
- Brief synopsis for each picture:
 - Picture 1: The priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth followed God's commands. But they were old and had no children.
 - Picture 2: Zechariah was chosen as the priest who got to go into the temple and burn incense before God. While he was there, an angel appeared to him and told him he would have a son who would prepare the way for the Messiah. He was to name this baby John. Zechariah didn't believe it could happen, so the angel said Zechariah wouldn't be able to speak until the baby was born.
 - Picture 3: Zechariah came out of the temple, but he couldn't speak, so he had to use gestures to try to get people to understand what had happened. He returned home, and his wife became pregnant.
 - Picture 4: Elizabeth had the baby, and she was full of joy! She said the baby was to be named John, but the people didn't believe her. Finally, Zechariah was able to speak, and he told everyone that the baby's name really would be John, and then he praised God.
- If you have time, let kids color the pictures.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What an interesting Bible story we had today! Think about the oldest woman you know. It might be a great-grandparent or someone here at church. Now imagine that person having a baby. Impossible, right? But nothing is impossible with God, as Zechariah and Elizabeth found out. Even though they were old, God gave them a baby—and not just any baby, but a baby who would grow up to get people ready for Jesus. **You can have joy because anything is possible with God.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD**
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

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

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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. AMAZING PLASTIC BAG

WHAT YOU NEED: Zip-top baggies, pitcher of water, sharpened pencils, plastic tub, paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill a baggie about two thirds with water and seal it.
- Hold it over the plastic tub, and hold up a pencil in your other hand.
- Tell kids you're going to poke the pencil through the bag.
- Ask them what they think will happen when you do so.
- Explain that you're going to poke the pencil through the bag, and NO water will come out. Pause for kids' reactions to your declaration.
- Grip the bag firmly at the top, and swiftly poke the pencil through the bag.
 - Do NOT pull it out the other side. Just leave it so it is poked through both sides.
 - The water should not leak out at all.
- Give kids a chance to poke a pencil through a baggie, making sure the bags are held above the plastic tub each time, just in case.
- You might want to fill up a few of bags with water so you don't end up with a bunch of pencils in one bag.
- When you're finished, pull the pencils out and let the water spill into the tub.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so cool! And it's not what you expected, is it? Nope. It seemed impossible, but it wasn't. Remember that God can do the impossible. He can heal people when it seems like they'll never get better. He can help friends forgive each other after something bad happens. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time God did something in your life that seemed impossible. Maybe He repaired a friendship. Or maybe He helped you learn a piece of music on the piano when you thought you would never get it right. Make sure to keep your example relevant and appropriate for the kids.)** You know what else? God cares about YOU and knows YOU! With all the people in the world, that seems like it would be impossible, but it's not! **You can have joy because anything is possible with God.**"

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

MEMORY VERSE

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LIFE APP

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happy even when things
don't go your way**

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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3. SILENT RELAY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle each set of phrases, and place them in two piles upside down at one end of your space.
- Tell kids that they're going to get into two teams, run down one at a time to retrieve the phrases, and then put them in order.
- Explain that they will need to do all of that **WITHOUT** talking, just like Zechariah couldn't talk in today's story. They can only use gestures.

NOTE: Be sensitive to any kids in your group who have speech and/or hearing problems.

- Tell kids when to start. If things get out of hand, or kids have trouble with any portion of the activity, feel free to give a few words of guidance as they go along. (They might have trouble especially with the "divide into two teams" part.)
- Continue until each team has put the verse in order.
- Break the silence by saying the verse aloud together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It's not easy to not be able to speak, is it? But even when things aren't easy, we can have joy. Zechariah had joy about the upcoming birth of his baby and the Messiah, even though He couldn't speak. Why? He knew He could have joy because anything is possible with God. And **YOU can have joy because anything is possible with God!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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.

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to sit or stand in a circle.
- Tell kids they will each pray for the person to their left.
- Say the prayer below, and let kids repeat it after you.
- "God, help _____ remember he/she can have joy because anything is possible with You!"

WHAT YOU SAY:

(Point to one kid and say the Bottom Line.) **"YOU can have joy because anything is possible with God.** (Repeat for each kid.) Isn't that so amazing? God can do ANYTHING, and that gives me so much joy!"

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the amazing plastic bag trick and encourage them to repeat the trick at home!