



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Have a joyful attitude every day and look for ways to treat others like Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of having joy in all circumstances.

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 4:4-9. Rejoice in the Lord!

MEMORY VERSE:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Some school days are great. Some days are bad. Whatever days come your way, have a joyful heart, and look for ways to share Jesus’ love with others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all you have done for us. Help us to remember you in the bad times, and give us your joy when we need it.

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you." - Matthew 6:33 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.



SKIT

BEST DAY EVER

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bench, backpacks

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

CHARACTERS:

Charlie and Mick - Elementary kids

Charlie sits on the bench of a school bus. Mick enters with his backpack and sits beside him.

MICK: Woo! This is it buddy! This is my day!

CHARLIE: It is?

MICK: Yes it is!

CHARLIE: Well, happy birthday.

MICK: No, no, it's not my birthday. It's just a great day.

CHARLIE: It is?

MICK: Yes it is!

CHARLIE: Huh. News to me. I always thought Saturday was the best day of the week.

MICK: Oh, Saturdays are nice, but if all we have are Saturdays, what do we have?

CHARLIE: Life without school! Oh that sounds nice!

SKIT

MICK: Not as nice as today. I tell you, I feel the joy. I feel excitement. I feel like this will be the best day ever!

CHARLIE: I'm sorry, are we going to the same place? Proctor Elementary School?

MICK: That's the one!

CHARLIE: And you're gonna have a good day there?

MICK: The best day ever!

CHARLIE: You guys having a party?

MICK: No way. I have three tests today.

CHARLIE: Three?

MICK: History, math, and... hmm, I think it was science?

CHARLIE: You don't know??

MICK: I probably should have studied more.

CHARLIE: And you still expect this to be a good day?

MICK: Not just today. I expect every day to be a great day.

CHARLIE: Who are you? And what did you eat for breakfast?

MICK: Mick Mitchell, and I had Wheaties.

CHARLIE: Wheaties? Gross. No Lucky Charms?

MICK: Don't need them. I have Jesus, and as long as I have him, today will be a great day!

CHARLIE: Well I hope you don't lose him.

MICK: No chance of that my friend, no chance.

CHARLIE: Good.

MICK: But that doesn't mean I can't share him.

SKIT

Charlie looks at Mick.

CHARLIE: This Jesus...he can give me a good day too?

MICK: You bet.

CHARLIE: Keep talking. We've got a nice long bus ride ahead.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A poster - a movie poster, artwork, something cool and fun

How do you guys like my new artwork here?

I need to hang this up at home after church, but I'm not sure what the best way to do that is. What are some things I can use to help me hang up this art on the wall and keep it there?

Take ideas and suggestions from the kids - tape, sticky tack, nails, screws, frames, string, etc.

How many of you have artwork like this at home?

Artwork makes a room feel more fun, warmer, or happier. It gives us something to enjoy that is there on good days and bad. We can lift our eyes, look at the stuff on our walls, and remember, things aren't so bad.

We will all have good days and bad this school year. When the bad days come, lift your eyes to the Lord. Rejoice that you are His, and that God loves you. God will give you joy on good days and bad, and when that joy is in your heart, you can share it with others.

Rejoice in the Lord, on good days and bad. Let God in, and he will make this the best year ever.



LARGE GROUP GAME

KEEP IT UP!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A balloon

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game. The player has 60 seconds to keep one balloon in the air. The contestant can use any part of his body, except hands, to hit the balloon in the air. If he lasts 60 seconds, he wins a prize.

VARIATION:

For younger kids, let them work in a pair, or reduce the game time to 30 seconds.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

It's not easy to stay "up" all day, especially on our own. But if we rejoice in the Lord, he will lift us up and give us joy on good days and bad!

BEST YEAR EVER

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Have a joyful attitude every day and look for ways to treat others like Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of having joy in all circumstances.

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 4:4-9. Rejoice in the Lord!

INTRO

I'm going to read to you a list of activities that happen in a given school week. Tell me if these are things that make you happy or sad.

Getting good grades on your paper.

Getting bad grades.

Spending time on the playground.

Spending time in time out.

Spending time in art class.

Reading a new story.

Doing a science project.

Solving math problems.

Taking a test.

Having a spelling bee.

Getting a pop quiz.

Going home at the end of the day.

Every day brings good and bad. Some days are more good than bad; other days are more bad than good. And just like the unpredictable weather outside, you never know when a day's going to be good, bad... or go from bad to worse.

But there is one thing you can do - you can rely on God. Whatever kind of day you're facing, you can have joy that only comes from the Lord.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ Philippians 4:4-9

MAIN POINT

This is a great passage that reminds us to focus on the Lord and find our joy in him, but it becomes even more amazing when you learn when it was written. Paul didn't speak these words in a pulpit. He didn't write them in his home, or in a pastor's office. He was in prison! Paul was in jail for his faith, and he already knew he would one day be put to death for that same faith. Yet in spite of his circumstances, Paul found the words to tell his brothers and sisters in Christ to REJOICE!

Joy isn't an emotion like happiness. It's knowing that God loves us, that Jesus died for us, and no matter how bad things get, no one can take God from us. Bad times will pass. So will good times. But God remains in our hearts, and his joy can stay with us always.

DRIVE IT HOME

Paul gives us a three-step plan for finding joy.

First, we need to remember God. We need to remember who he is and what he's done for us. We need to rejoice that we know God, thank him for his goodness, and praise him for who he is.

Second, we need to give our worries to God. We need to tell him why we are sad, stressed out, or frustrated. Give God all the bad stuff. Tell him to take it from you, and ask him to give you joy.

Third, we need to focus on the good things. Thank God for your family. Thank him for your church. Thank him for good friends. Focus on the good gifts God gives us - sunshines, rainbows, flowers, puppies, football games, Oreos. Anything good and pure that makes you happy, think on those things. Remember all of the good God has given you, and you'll find the joy of the Lord welling up in you.

When you have that joy in your heart, you can share it with others. Share God's love with someone else having a bad day. Tell them what Jesus did for you, and them, and encourage them to ask God for joy. God can use your joy to spread his good news to others, and that's a recipe for making even more joy in your life!

It isn't always easy to remember to seek joy when times are bad. When the teacher says the words, "Pop quiz," we tend to get a chill down our spine. When a friend says something hurtful, the last thing on our mind is rejoicing in the Lord. But these are the very things Paul says we need to give to God. Give him the pop quiz, the cruel remarks, the name calling, the bad days. Give them to God, and ask for joy.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Having the best year ever isn't going to just happen. It happens one day at a time. Rejoice in the good days. Rejoice through the bad days. Share your joy with others who need it. Day by day, make this a year of joy, the best year ever!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for all you have done for us. Help us to remember you in the bad times, and give us your joy when we need it.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



BEST YEAR EVER

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite thing that happens every day in school?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 6:33

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids make up a skit about having joy when they're about to take a test!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read **Philippians 4:4-9**

What does Paul say we should do?

Where was Paul when he wrote this book?

Why was Paul able to have joy even in jail?

What should we do with our worries and fears?

What does Paul say we should focus on instead of the bad?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to look to you when we have a bad day. Give us joy, and help us to share that joy with others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



BEST YEAR EVER

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite thing that happens every day in school?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 6:33

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids make up a skit about having joy when they're about to take a test!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Philippians 4:4-9

Where was Paul when he wrote these words?

Why was Paul able to have joy in prison?

What should we do with our worries and fears?

What can we focus on to give us joy?

How can we share our joy with others?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to look to you when we have a bad day. Give us joy, and help us to share that joy with others.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

When you have a bad day, the best thing to do is go to bed and try again tomorrow.

FALSE

Paul had joy even while he was in prison.

TRUE

God doesn't want to hear about our worries.

FALSE

God wants us to focus on good things, things that are pure and lovely.

TRUE

We can share our joy with others, even on bad days.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: EXPECT GREAT THINGS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we talked about having joy even on our bad days. Joy isn't a feeling; it's knowing that God loves us and can never be taken away from us. Joy can lift us up on a bad day, and joy can be shared with others who need it.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Take some time to focus on things that are good, pure, and holy. Think about the good things God has given you as a family, and thank God for those gifts.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What can we do to turn things around on a bad day?
- Why does God want us to give our worries to Him?
- How can we share joy with others?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

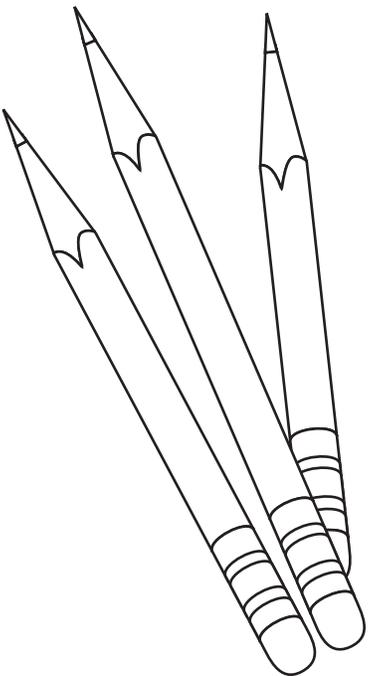
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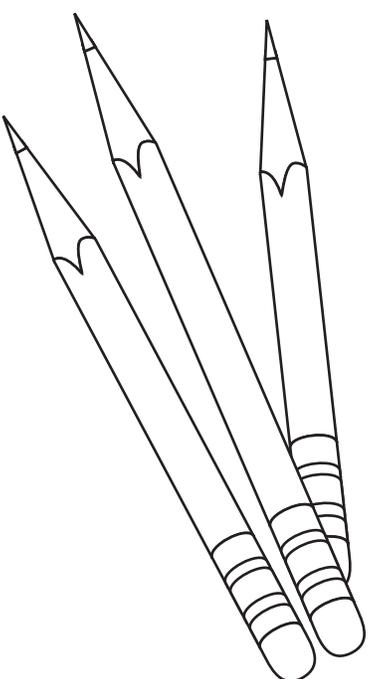
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

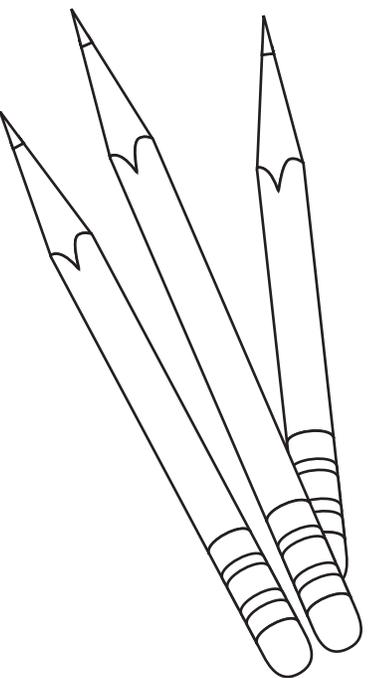
When you have a bad day this week, read Philippians 4:4-9, then give your bad day to God. Rejoice in the Lord, focus on the positive, and share your joy with others!



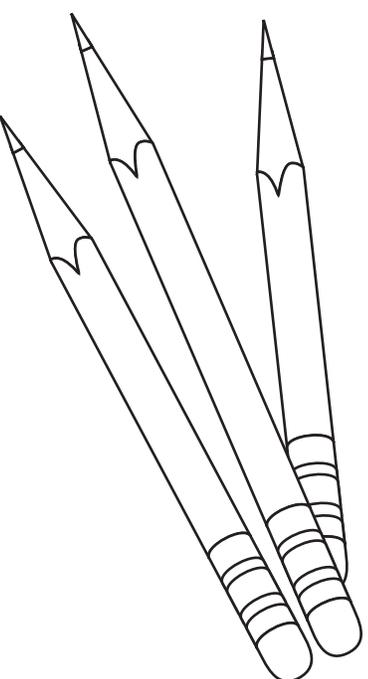
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CRAFT PROJECT

Supplies:

Old Kid Friendly Magazines (Highlights, Zoobooks, Lego Magazine, etc.)

Construction Paper

Glue Sticks

Safety Scissors

Markers/Crayons

Have the kids create collages from magazine clippings. Have them look for things that are good, pure, and holy. They can cut out pictures of anything that makes them happy, then paste them onto a piece of construction paper around the word "JOY!"