

City SG - December 7-8, 2019

Bible Story: The Weary World Rejoices (The Coming Birth of John the Baptist) • *Luke 1:5-25; 57-80*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

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

1. Candy Cane Connect Time

What You Need: Plastic Candy Canes (8 per group)

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 nose 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.

2. Minute to Build It

What You Need: Plastic cups (50 per group)

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, we learned how you can have joy even when doing hard things!**"

3. Joy Is Possible

What You Need: "Joy Is Possible" Activity Pages (1 per child), white cardstock (1 sheet per child), markers, scissors, glue sticks

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.
- Instruct them to glue their "joy" template onto the piece of cardstock, using just a small amount of glue 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, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because anything is possible with God.**”

4. Joyful Letters

What You Need: Joyful Letters Verse Strips (3 verses per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Review this month’s memory verse together out loud.
- Divide your group into three teams.
- Give each team a set of memory verse strips 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 putting the verse in order.
- The first team to get the entire memory verse done correctly wins!
- Read the verse out loud again.

What You Say:

“You all did an amazing job at getting that long verse in order! 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 **[Bottom Line] 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?”

5. 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 **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because anything is possible with God.** *(Repeat.)* In Jesus’ name, amen!” *(Repeat.)*

PARENT CONNECTION: 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.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!