

Alley Rundown—June 12th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (The Apostles Are Treated Badly) • Acts 5:17-42

Today's Key Question: What are things that bring you joy?

Today's Bottom Line: Choose joy no matter what's going on.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a (NIRV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

CG: Summer JAM Slide

"Summer JAM is coming up very soon and we're so excited to invite you to 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won't want to miss it. Visit the Summer Jam Tents after our time together today to sign up!"

"Hey all, hope you're having a great start to June—I know I am! But even if things aren't going the best, I hope we can all figure out how choose joy, no matter what. Not the easiest thing in the world, for sure, but I want to try. Even on the worst days . . . and I've had a few 'worst' days.

"What about you? I'm guessing you've had a few horrible days now and then. Instead of hearing all of you tell your stories of horrible days, we're going to try a quick creative improv game. It's called One Sentence Story Time.

"Ok; here's how it works: we'll start with one person, and the first person will start a story about a horrible day . . . but only one sentence of it. Then the next person will pick up the story, adding a sentence of their own. Then the third, and fourth, and then we'll loop around until the whole story is told! The only thing you have to remember is that the story has to be about a really bad, horrible, no-good, very bad day . . . and appropriate to talk about at church! OK, let's try it!"

Play the improv game. Kids will undoubtedly jump right to people in their story dying, getting hurt, zombies, fires, the most off-the-wall stuff! Just encourage them to try to stick to a story, rather than a bunch of random events. And have fun with it!

Once getting to a good spot, you can jump in with "The End!" to finish off the game, or have one last volunteer end with a conclusion sentence.

Continue by repeating the most outlandish and ridiculous things that were said during the game.

"Ok, so yeah, that was a pretty bad day, especially when [add part of the story] happened. Can't say that's ever happened to me, but if it ever did . . . yikes.

"So, to put this in perspective, let's say that you did actually have a day like that. I mean, maybe not totally literally, but a really bad day nonetheless. Nothing going right. Everything is difficult. Everything's a crisis. You're not happy.

"In those situations, on those kinds of days, how in the world do you find joy? When you look around, there's no joy. None. It's all bad! Nothing good! When life is difficult and you don't feel happy, how do you find joy?

"This is a tricky question but definitely one worth figuring out! This is a great question to consider and look for guidance in the Bible. All sorts of people experienced moments that were difficult but found a way to have joy. Let's check out one of those stories to help us out this morning with the help of this week's Episode of the So&So Show."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

“Jail. Twice, in fact. Getting dragged in front of the high priest and whipped? That doesn’t sound like a dream vacation, but the apostles kept their joy throughout the whole thing! How is that even possible?”

“If you think about it, they had a lot to be joyful about. God had raised Jesus from the dead. He sent His very Spirit to live inside each of His followers. The Holy Spirit helped them to teach, spread the good news, and heal people. He led and guided them! Amazing!”

“Do you remember the question I asked at the beginning? How in the world do you find joy when you’re having just the worst day? My answer was that you can’t—at least not by yourself. But you can find joy with Jesus, thinking about all He has done, that will start you on the path to finding that joy. Just like these apostles, you can CHOOSE to have joy, even in the direst of circumstances. And just like these apostles, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. And He can help you choose joy.

“Whatever’s going on with you, you can choose to have joy. I’m not saying you have to smile all of the time, especially when life is difficult. Being sad is totally okay. But choosing joy means you don’t let the situation you’re in ruin everything. Maybe your friends aren’t being as kind as they usually are. Maybe you get embarrassed at recess. Maybe you fail a subject at school or you don’t get picked for the team. It’s difficult, but you can choose joy in any of those tough situations! And you can also ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose joy. He will!”

“As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**What are things that bring you joy?** True joy, not, ‘Wow, this bite of pizza is really good,’ joy. Deep happiness, satisfaction, contentment, or that bubbly kind of smile that you can’t help but plaster all over your face. What things do that? If you’re not sure, that’s ok, too. You’ll have a chance to talk about the ways you can find joy, even life is hard. Before you head out, let’s talk to God. Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose joy, no matter what is happening around us. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering.

Offering:

“All Summer we are giving our offering to help dig water wells in the Country of Malawi! When you bring your offering each week, it will go to making sure that the people of Malawi will be able to have clean water to drink, cook with, and more. So if you brought your offering, you can bring it up now!”

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures