

Alley SG—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)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, dominoes (20 per group), index cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give everyone a Bible, an index card, one domino, and a pen.
- Ask kids to use the index in their Bibles to look up verses that talk about joy.
 - Some kids may have phones that have Bible apps.
- Once they have selected a verse, give everyone a turn to read what they found.
- Have them write the verse reference on their index card and place it next to their domino.
- If the size of the group is smaller, you may want to go ahead and prepare supplemental cards/ dominos with verses already picked out.
- Some possible other verses about joy to include are:
 - James 1:2-3
 - Psalm 47:1
 - Isaiah 9:3
 - Proverbs 10:28
 - 1 Peter 1:8-9
 - Romans 15:13
 - Nehemiah 8:10
 - Isaiah 12:6
 - Psalm 27:6
 - Isaiah 35:10
- Once there are plenty of dominos to use, ask the group to work together to place their dominoes closely together to set up a chain reaction row. They can creatively curve the row around to make a design or simply place them in a straight line.
- Choose someone to push the first domino down and enjoy watching the chain reaction as all the dominos fall one by one.
- Explain that all these verses were examples of the joy that we can find through allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us.
 - The dominoes symbolize how this joy can make waves, with one person's joy bringing joy to someone else and so on, leaving an impact on the world around us.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Ball (1 per Group), "Joy Scenarios" cards (1 Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Let kids get into a circle, and hand the ball to one kid in the circle to start the game.
- When you say, "Go," they will pass the ball in a circle. **You can change directions randomly to increase excitement.**
- **Have the kids play a form of "Hot Potato" by scanning the below QR Code with your phone:**



- Randomly pause the music (or shout “STOP!” if not using the music). The kid who has the ball at that moment will draw a “Joy Scenarios” Card and read it aloud.
- Give kids a couple minutes to talk about how someone could choose joy in that situation.
 - What should that person/those people focus on?
 - What is something good that could come out of choosing joy in that situation?
- Keep going until each card has been read.
- As a group, take time to talk about how good can happen in the midst of a difficult situation.
 - Explain how the Apostles had to endure some really rough experiences (*imprisoned, beaten, etc.*), and yet they still chose joy.
 - Being sad is okay, but choosing to have joy means that we don’t allow our tough circumstances to be all that we think about or focus on.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How is joy different from happiness?
- When is it easy to have joy? When is it difficult to have joy?
- What are some ways you can shift your focus to joy when you are having a hard time?
- How can your choice to have joy point others to Jesus?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Dominoes from Activity 1

What You Do:

- Have each kid pick a domino from the pile. Explain that the color they picked will determine what kind of prayer they will pray.
- Take time to tell kids how prayer is simply a conversation with our closest friend. We can talk to God about anything and everything. Our ongoing conversation with God can deepen and grow our relationship.
- Let kids know what each color stands for:
 - **Red:** Pray for someone in your family.
 - **Orange:** Pray for a friend or neighbor.
 - **Blue:** Pray for a leader (teacher, coach, pastor, elected official, etc.)
 - **Teal:** Pray for the safety of first responders (police, fire, hospital workers)
 - **Green:** Say thank You for something God has done for you.
 - **Yellow:** Ask God for help with finding joy in a particular situation.
 - **Black:** Miscellaneous (anything you would like to pray about).
- Plan to open and close the prayer time yourself, and instruct the kids to pray their prayer, going around the circle in a clockwise direction.

What You Say:

- *Open by saying:*
 “Dear God,
 Thank You for being the reason that we can have joy through anything that happens. Thank You for showing us that we can trust You no matter what. We are so grateful that we can talk to You any time we want about anything that is going on with us . . .”
- *Close by saying:*
 “Thank You for listening to us. We know that You are here with us and that You care for each of us. We love You, God. In Your name we pray, Amen.”