

## City LG—June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

**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)

**REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service**

**WORSHIP: Zeal and Fireblazin'**

**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!"*

"Hi, friends! I'm glad to be here with you as we find out how we can make waves. Remember, **what you do today can change the world around you!** And that was definitely true about the people in today's story. (*Hold up Bible.*) With the help of God's Spirit, they found JOY in the middle of a really tough situation. Before we get too far into our lesson today, I have a question for you..."

**SLIDE: Question ("What makes you happy?")**

Talk about it with your groups. 3 minutes. GO!

**CG: Question Video (Runtime: 3:00)**

"This took place during the earliest days of the church, not long after Jesus died on the cross. When Jesus died, people thought it was the end of everything He had started. But that all changed when He rose from the dead! Jesus appeared to more than 500 people over 50 days before He returned to heaven to be with God.

"But Jesus didn't leave His followers alone. On the day of Pentecost, the power of God's Spirit filled the brand-new believers with boldness and joy. God's Spirit would be with them even after Jesus had gone back to heaven. They shared their lives, their food, and their homes. They prayed and praised God together. But soon, following Jesus would become harder and harder. There would be times when joy wasn't so easy. That's what this week's Bible Story Video is all about. Let's take a look!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:00)**

“Nothing really ‘fun’ was happening to the apostles in this story. Their joy didn’t come from the things that happened TO them—because, I mean, they kept getting thrown in prison!

“Still, the believers were able to choose joy, no matter WHAT was happening. Their joy came from the good news about Jesus that they were sharing with others. They continued to share the story of Jesus everywhere. And more and more people believed!

“God’s Spirit can fill US with joy, just like God’s Spirit filled the believers way back then. That’s why we can choose JOY. Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!”

**CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Choose joy no matter what’s going on.**

“Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

**PRAY:** “God, thank You for this reminder of how we can choose joy—even when things around us aren’t going our way. You helped the apostles choose joy in the middle of some really tough challenges. Help us find our joy in our relationship with You, so we can encourage others, too. Thank You for being with us through anything we face in life. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“If we can get in the habit of choosing joy, we’ll be able to bounce back from tough things that happen to us. And of course, other people will notice! They’ll see that there’s something different about us because we’re able to **trust God no matter what** and find our joy from God. Maybe that’ll make them want to know more about putting THEIR trust in God, too.”

**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**