

City 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 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. Joy Jive

What You Need: Bible marked at Galatians 5:22-23a

What You Do:

- Practice the hand jive motions ahead of time so you are comfortable with them.
- Assist kids as needed to find the verse with the navigation tips below.
- Read Galatians 5:22-23a as kids follow along, pointing to the words.
- Ask kids to name some of the good things this verse tells us the Holy Spirit helps us do.
- Teach kids the following "Joy Jive" to help them remember the fruit of the Spirit.
 - *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is* (pat your thighs twice as you say) *love, joy* (and clap your hands twice as you say) *and peace.*
 - *It is* (with palms down, crisscross your RIGHT hand over your LEFT hand twice as you say) *being patient* (with palms down, crisscross your LEFT hand over your RIGHT hand twice as you say) *kind and good.*
 - *It is being* (tap your RIGHT fist over your LEFT fist twice as you say) *faithful* (tap your LEFT fist over your RIGHT fist twice as you say) *and gentle* (give a thumbs-up with your RIGHT hand while you point your thumb backwards over your right shoulder twice as you say) *and having control* (give a thumbs-up sign with your LEFT hand while you point your thumb backwards over your left shoulder twice as you say) *of oneself.*

What You Say:

"The fruit of the Spirit isn't apples and oranges. It's a different kind of fruit. It doesn't grow on trees. It grows inside of us when we follow Jesus. The Spirit helps us show love to others and be patient, kind, and good. Let's say our verse together one more time to help us remember all characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. And since we're learning about JOY today, let's shout that one out especially loud. Here we go. (Say Galatians 5:22-23a in whatever translation you are using.) And don't forget, you can **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what's going on.**"

2. Hula Hoop Happy Face

What You Need: "Eyes" (2-3 Sets of Eyes per Group), yarn/ribbon/etc. (2-3 Strands per Group), hula hoops (2-3 per Group)

What You Do:

- Split group into 2 or 3 Teams (depending on the size of your Group).
- Give each Team a hula hoop, a pair of "Eyes," and a rope.
- Instruct kid to place the "Eyes" inside the hula hoop where the eyes would go if the hoop was a face. They can then use the yarn or ribbon to make a smile on their hula hoop face.
- Explain that you will read a statement about today's Bible story.
 - If they think the statement is true, they should shape their yarn into a smile.
 - If they think it's not true, they should change the yarn into a frown.
 - If the statement is false, challenge kids to give the correct answer.

- Before each new statement is read, ask kids to pick up the yarn and hold it until you finish reading.
 - Peter and John were excited to tell people about Jesus everywhere they went. (T)
 - No one listened when Peter and John told them that Jesus came to save them. (F)
 - The people who believed in Jesus didn't like to share what they had with each other. (F)
 - When God helped Peter heal a man who couldn't walk, the religious leaders got mad because they didn't want people to follow Jesus. (T)
 - Some men threw Peter and John in the water to punish them for talking about Jesus. (F)
 - Jesus' friends were beaten, thrown in jail, and made fun of, but they were still joyful because they knew God was with them. (T)
 - Peter and John were told to stop talking about Jesus. (T).
 - After Peter and John were put into prison, they stopped telling others about Jesus. (F)
 - Peter and the apostles obeyed God and not the religious leaders. (T)
 - While Peter and John were in prison, an elephant appeared, opened the doors of the jail, and set them free. (F)

What You Say:

“Can you believe it? Even when Jesus' friends were beaten, thrown in jail, and made fun of, they STILL had joy! Why do you think that was true? *(Pause for answers.)* I'm sure they didn't enjoy being treated like criminals, but more than anything, they knew that people needed to hear about Jesus. It was so important to them that they were willing to risk their lives to make sure others had a chance to believe in Jesus. Their joy was in knowing and following Jesus. Just like Peter and John, you can **[Bottom Line] choose joy no matter what's going on**. When you do, others will see it, and they might want to learn how to follow Jesus, too!”

[Make It Personal] (Share about a kid-appropriate time you chose joy even though you were in a difficult or sad situation such as a time you were disappointed, when someone was unkind to you, or when things did not go well for you. As you share, be sure to let kids know that our unhappy situations don't always go away but God gives us so much help that we can face them with joy.)

3. Let the Sunshine In!

What You Need: Yellow sticky notes, blue sticky notes (pads of 100 per group), black markers, Waves Poster (1 per Group, per Service)

What You Do:

- Pass out the blue sticky notes and black markers.
- Direct kids to draw and color a black cloud on their sticky note as they take turns sharing one thing that makes them feel sad-fighting, being made fun of, feeling afraid, when things don't go their way, or when they are disappointed.
- When kids finish sharing and coloring, ask them to form a line at one end of the room.
- Take the posterboard and move to the other side of the room, far enough for kids to run to you.
- Call kids, one by one, and invite them to run, hop, jump, or skip to you and stick their cloud in the sky above the waves.
- When all of the clouds are on the poster, bring kids together and point out that even though the waves look cheerful, the dark clouds remind us that a storm is coming.
- Give each kid a yellow “sunshine” sticky note and have them return to their line.
- Repeat the process of calling kids, individually, but this time they place their yellow sticky note over one of the dark clouds.

What You Say:

“The sky above the waves of water on our poster looks so much better now that the dark clouds are covered with sunshine. Did the dark clouds go away? No, they're still there, but we made a choice to add sunshine to make things brighter. Sometimes, we can feel like a gloomy dark cloud when things aren't going the way we'd like. Can we choose joy when we're sad?”

Yes, we can! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, so that means that God can help us find joy even when we're not happy. Just like you swapped those dark clouds for joyful sunshine, you can ***[Bottom Line]* choose joy no matter what's going on** because you can choose to think about how much God loves you and is always with you."

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids in echoing today's Bottom Line in response to the following questions.
- What can you choose to do when you feel sad?
- ***[Bottom Line]* Choose joy no matter what's going on.**
- What can you choose to do when you're disappointed?
- ***[Bottom Line]* Choose joy no matter what's going on.**
- What can you choose to do when you feel alone?
- ***[Bottom Line]* Choose joy no matter what's going on.**
- What can you choose to do when things aren't going the way you want?
- ***[Bottom Line]* Choose joy no matter what's going on.**
- What can you choose to do when you're feeling upset?
- ***[Bottom Line]* Choose joy no matter what's going on.**

What You Say:

"We all get upset sometimes when things happen that we don't like. And sometimes tough situations come up that upset or worry us. When that happens, we can still CHOOSE joy by remembering that God loves us and is there for us, every minute of our day. Let's talk to God and ask for help to ***[Bottom Line]* choose joy no matter what's going on.**

"Dear God, thank You for always knowing what's going on. Nothing happens that You are not aware of. Help us remember that when things are tough, we can come to you for help and know that the Holy Spirit will make us strong and help us have joy. Fill us with the good fruit of love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, peace, faithfulness, AND JOY! In Jesus' name, amen."