

July Week 2
Garden
Ready, Set, Move!
July 9

CRAFT

JOY

SUPPLIES: JOY page, Dot markers or dot stickers, handheld mirror

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Pass out JOY page and dot markers or dot stickers (you can choose based on the class).**

- *“Today we learned that we can choose JOY, even in the hard times, because Jesus wants to be our friend forever.*
- *On your paper if the word JOY, but the letter O has been cut out. Let’s use our dot markers/dot stickers to decorate the J and the Y. Let’s all try to keep the dots inside the letters. Remember when you dot your marker to just press it down and then lift it. Try not to drag and smear.”*

⇒ **Have children hold it up to their face so that their face shows through the O. Hold up a handheld mirror for them to look at and see that they have JOY, too!**

- *“Now I want to show you something. Turn your paper around so that the word faces out. Now hold the paper up to your face so I can show you in the mirror. Look at that! Your face makes the word joy!”*

⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“Paul and Silas loved Jesus, and they told people everywhere that Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. People got upset with them and put them in jail. But they weren’t sad or scared. They knew that Jesus loved them and wanted to be their friend forever. Paul and Silas sang and praised Jesus with joy. Jesus helped them choose joy, and Jesus can help us choose joy, too, because Jesus wants to be our friend forever.*
- **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
- **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!”**



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ACTIVITY #1

Joy in Jail – Hot potato game

SUPPLIES: “Smile” stress ball, CD player, Worship CD, Floor tape

SET-UP: Create a “jail” cell using the floor tape.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in a circle around the “jail” cell.**

- *“Today in our true bible story we learned about two men – Paul and Silas! Does anyone remember where they were? That’s right! They were in jail! How do you think you would feel if you were in jail? I think I would feel sad and scared. But these men had Jesus living in their hearts and they knew Jesus wanted to be their friend forever. So, they had JOY!”*

⇒ **Hold up the smiley face.**

- *“We are going to pass this smiley face around while the music is playing. Whoever is holding it when the music stops is going to the jail!”*

⇒ **Play first round.**

- *“The music stopped! You are in jail now! But on the next round I know a way that you can get out!”*
- *[After the next round...]*
- *If you want to get out of jail just shout the answer to my question....*
“Who wants to be your friend forever?”
“JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER!”

⇒ **Repeat until every child has a turn.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *Paul and Silas had Joy while they were in jail because Jesus was their friend. And we can have joy too!*
- *Who wants to be your friend forever?*
- *Jesus wants to be my friend forever!*

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ACTIVITY #2

Look and Find

SUPPLIES: Gift Bows

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“Friends, join me in the center of the room. Take a look in my basket and tell me what you see...bows! And what do we put these kinds of bows on? Presents! That makes me think of our Bible story today. We learned that Jesus is a gift for EVERYONE!*
- *We are going to scatter these bows all around the room and you are going to bring them all back to me. Are you ready?”*

⇒ **Scatter the bows and have children find them and bring them back. Then ask the bottom-line question.**

- *“Let’s go!*
- *Great job everybody! Jesus is a free gift for everyone!*
- *Friends, **Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever!***

⇒ **Continue as long as children are interested!**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Friends, Jesus’ love for us is a gift. And it is a free gift for everyone, everywhere! Jesus wants to be our friend forever!*
- ***Who wants to be your friend forever?***
- ***Jesus wants to be my friend forever.”***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY JULY WEEK 2

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ A BIBLE STORY or STORY BOOK

⇒ *Jesus is with Me*

- By Debby Anderson

ASK A QUESTION

Who wants to be your friend forever?
Jesus wants to be my friend forever!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said, ‘Come follow me.’”

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for making me.
Thank you for loving me.
Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.
Amen.