

July Week 2
Backyard
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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ACTIVITY #3

Everyone Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Floor tape

SET-UP: Put one long piece of floor tape on one side of the room and one on the other.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children line up on one of the lines on one side of the room.**
 - *“Friends, we have been working on our memory verse all summer long and today we are going to play a fun game to practice it!*
 - *Let’s all line up on this line. I am going to stand on the other side of the room on the far line. I want you to listen closely and I am going to call out a description of what you are wearing. So, I might say: everyone wearing a red shirt! If you are wearing red shirt, then when I say ‘Jesus said,’ I want you to say ‘Come, follow me’ as you cross the room to the other line. Are you ready to try it?”*

- ⇒ **Call out a color or clothing item. Then say, “Jesus said,” and have them join you saying “Come, follow me” as they cross the room to the opposite line. When everyone is across you can go back the other way.**
 - *Everyone wearing a red shirt! Jesus said... “Come follow me!”*
 - *Everyone wearing sandals! Jesus said... “Come follow me!”*
 - *Everyone wearing shorts! Jesus said... “Come follow me!”*
 - *Everyone wearing a dress! Jesus said... “Come follow me!”*
 - Continue with any other descriptors you think of and can see in the room.

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends! Jesus doesn’t just want one or two people to follow him...he wants everyone! He came to be everyone’s 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

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ *The Beginner's Bible: Earthquake in Prison*, p. 500

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who wants to be your friend forever?**
- **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.**

⇒ Memory Verse

- **“Jesus said, ‘Come follow me.’” Matthew 4:19**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ “Today we learned that Paul and Silas sang songs in prison. I don’t know what Paul and Silas’ favorite songs were, but today we will make a list of your favorite songs. Think about songs you like to sing. When I say your name, **tell me one your favorite songs.**

⇒ These are some great songs! I know it makes Jesus happy to hear you sing to Him! **Let’s pray:**

- *Dear God, Thank you for giving us Jesus. Thank You that Jesus gives us the power to choose joy. I pray we will choose to sing to Jesus here, there, and everywhere, no matter what. You’re the best, God, and we love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*