

CITY LG June 29-30, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Reason to Believe (God Will Give Us Joy) • *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Today's Bottom Line: There's always a reason to celebrate.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.*

Proverbs 17:22 (NirV)

Monthly Virtue: Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

CAMPUS LG SUPPLY NEEDED: one coin

WORSHIP

My God

Wake

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups.

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! I'm so happy to see your smiling faces! If you're happy to be here too, say 'Woohoooo!' (*Pause for response.*) I love it! Now it really feels like a party.

All summer long we're finding out how we can live with joy. See, joy isn't just about being happy because something good happened to you.

SLIDE: Virtue

Joy is **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**

SLIDE: Theme

In the good times AND the tough times, we can find joy when we pay attention to the way God is working in the world around us. We can find joy when we remember how much God loves us, and how God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That's ALWAYS something to celebrate!

I've got another joyful party game for us to play today. This one is called 'Heads or Tails.' Everyone stand up on your feet.

Here's how you play. For each round of the game, you'll decide if you want to be heads or tails. If you choose heads, put both hands on your head like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Or if you choose tails, put both hands on your 'tail' like this. (*Demonstrate by putting both hands on your lower back.*)

Once you've made your choice, you freeze! Then we'll flip a coin. If it's heads, everyone who chose heads is still in, and everyone who chose tails is out. And if it's tails, everyone who chose tails is still in, and everyone who chose heads is out. We'll keep going until we have one champion!

We'll play a few practice rounds until everybody gets the hang of it. Are you ready? Let's go!

AUDIO: Fun, instrumental music (suggestion: "Start the Party" instrumental)

Play a few practice rounds in which no one gets out. Then let everyone know when the game actually starts. Have the kids who are out sit down. Keep playing until you get down to one winner (or a few winners).

That was really fun! Thanks for playing along.

As you know, we're talking about joy this summer . . . and joy is about more than just feeling happy.

We can find joy because we know how much God loves us, and we see how God is working in the world around us. Those things can bring us joy deep down inside . . . whether things are going great in our lives . . . or even when nothing seems to be going our way at all.

Today we'll look at a short passage from the Bible that explains where our joy comes from. We find this passage in a book called Habakkuk, which is near the very end of the Old Testament. (*Hold up Bible.*) This book contains the words of a man named Habakkuk, who was a prophet. Prophets are people who listened to God and spoke what God said to others. The prophets lived and worked throughout the history of God's people.

Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story(11:30)

SLIDE: Theme Background

Wow. Habakkuk's words that we heard today are really powerful, aren't they? I mean, it's one thing to say that you're full of joy because life is going great. But Habakkuk was going through a really hard time. There were a lot of bad things happening around him. Still, he chose to trust God—and that's how he found joy!

When things don't go our way . . . when things don't work out like we hoped they would . . . or when we feel afraid or disappointed . . . we can remember that we're never really alone. God sent Jesus for us. Jesus made a way for us to live forever with God. And God's Holy Spirit can help us live each day with joy. That's true whether things are going great, or not great at all.

Let's stand up to check out our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

There's always a reason to celebrate.

Think about all that Jesus experienced in His life. Even He went through really hard things here on this Earth . . . and still, He chose to trust God.

We can find reasons to celebrate when we read the Bible and see how God has been faithful and good all throughout history. We can also think back to times when we've seen God's goodness in our own lives.

We can find joy when we look at what God has done in the past . . . when we pay attention to what God is doing right now . . . and when we remember that God will make everything right in the end.

Let's pray and ask God to help us find joy.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Dear God, thank You for these amazing words that Habakkuk shared. They remind us that our joy doesn't come from things that happen to us. Our TRUE joy comes from You. When things are hard, please help us to remember that You love us, that You're with us, and that You've promised to make everything right in the end. We are so glad to know that we can trust you no matter what! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps families who are struggling financially. One thing you probably never worry about is having school supplies, but families in need want their kids to have the supplies they need to succeed in school, too. Morning Star Mission has a program called Jump on the Bus. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this video...

VIDEO: *Jump on the Bus*

So, let's help kids get ready to jump on the bus this year with all the supplies they need.

SLIDE: *Theme*

*****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.***