

CITY LG – June 8-9, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Over and Over (Feast of Booths) • *Deuteronomy 16:13-17*

Today's Bottom Line: Make a habit of choosing joy.

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

LG SUPPLIES: Campus supplies: 2 easels, 2 easel pads, 2 thick markers

Central will send over: one buzzer, one set of cards with these words: dog, tree, football, shoe, house, video game controller, giraffe, party hat, cheeseburger, ice cream cone, umbrella, bicycle, roller skate, flashlight, donut

WORSHIP

My God

Wake

SLIDE: Theme

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

NOTE: This is the second week for our brand new first graders so please make sure they know where to sit for groups.

“Hey, everybody! I’m [your name], and I’m so glad we’re all here together in the CITY! We have some very special people in here with us today! Where are our brand new first graders?? Make some noise first graders!! We are so glad you are in the City now! Second and third graders...what are some things we should make sure our first graders know? (*Give kids time to answer. They may need prompting but make sure they cover:*

- Bathroom procedures
- What they can do each week when they first come in
- What rugs are for first graders
- God time cards...show them and what happens when they return each week
- Schedule: worship, Lg (Story Lab videos), Sg
- Offering

Well, now that we have officially welcomed our awesome first graders, let’s get to it. It’s summer, and it’s time to celebrate.

If you’re feeling good, give me a thumbs-up. (*Demonstrate.*) Awesome! Well, this day is about to get even better, because we have lots of fun planned. This whole summer, we’re Starting the Party. We’re talking about how we can live with joy!

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

If we take a look around, we'll be able to see lots of amazing things that God is doing—not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people. We can see those good things and find joy. And joy is good for us! It's like we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Proverbs 17:22:

SLIDE: Memory Verse

*A cheerful heart makes you healthy.
But a broken spirit dries you up. (Proverbs 17:22, NIRV)*

SLIDE: Theme

One of the things that makes me cheerful and joyful is playing a really fun party game. For this one, I'll need two Small Group Leaders to join me on stage.

Bring up two Small Group Leaders and have each of them sit in front of an easel pad—with the easel pad facing the audience. Give each leader a thick marker.

(To the two leaders) Okay, leaders. This is a drawing game. I've got a stack of cards here for each of you.

Give a stack of game cards to each leader. (There shouldn't be any repeats.)

When I say 'go,' you'll take turns drawing whatever is written on your top card. Meanwhile, everyone else *(reference the audience)* will try to guess what you're drawing. So [Leader #1], you'll draw first, while everyone tries to guess. Make sure you sit to the side so everyone can see what you're drawing. [Leader #2], you'll wait until we guess [Leader #1]'s drawing. Then, when you hear the buzz *(press the buzzer)*, you'll start drawing whatever is on YOUR card. Then we'll go back to [Leader #1], who will flip to a new page on her pad for her next drawing . . . and we'll keep going back and forth. Make sense?

"Oh—and here's the catch. You have to draw with your non-dominant hand. So, if you normally write with your right hand, you'll be drawing today with your left! If you normally write with your left hand, you'll draw with your right.

(To audience) Let's see how many answers we can guess in one minute. Do you think we can get more than five? Let's find out. Here we go!

VIDEO: 60 second countdown

Comment on the action and make sure the leaders alternate who's drawing. Press the buzzer each time the kids guess the correct answer and keep track of how many they've guessed by calling out the total each time. If they get stuck and can't guess a specific answer, you can let them pass and move on to the next one.

Thank the leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

SLIDE: Theme

That was amazing! I'm so impressed by our leaders and their artistic ability—even with their off hand.

Today we're looking at a habit of joy and celebration that God set up for the Israelite people. (*Hold up Bible.*)

When we look back to the very beginning, we see how God created the world—including people. Sadly, people turned away from God, and the world was broken. But even then, God had a plan to fix what was broken and bring us back into relationship.

God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. That family, the Israelites, continued to grow in number. For a long time, they were enslaved in Egypt . . . but God rescued them and led them to freedom.

Let's see what happened...

VIDEO: Bible story (12:23)

SLIDE: Theme

love to celebrate—and it's cool to think that celebrating is important to God too. God actually **WANTS** us to celebrate! We can see that in the way God set up times of the year, like the Feast of Booths, when the people could stop and find joy in the way God was working in their lives.

So let's think about what that means for us today. Check it out.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

How can we **make a habit of choosing joy**?

We can look around and focus on things in our lives that are gifts from God—like people we love, or our favorite things that make life so good. We can think about the fact that God is always there to help us when we go through difficult times. We can remember that God will make everything right in the end—even the things that just don't seem to make sense right now. We can simply take a moment to stop our busy lives and tell God 'thank You.'

We can find joy when we remind ourselves how much God loves us. God made a way for us to have a forever relationship because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. God wants our lives to be full of joy!

What do you think? What are some habits we can put into place that will help us choose joy?
Will you pray with me?

Dear God, thank You for the reminder that You've given us so many reasons to have joy. You set up ways for Your people to find joy by celebrating what You had done in their lives. Please show us how we can also make a habit of choosing joy today. Help us to see how You're working in our lives in so many amazing ways. When we're tempted to complain or when things don't go the way we expect, help us to make the wise choice and choose joy! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

There's a ministry that we are supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called Morning Star Mission and it's located right near here, in Joliet, IL.

SLIDES: Morningstar pictures *(scroll through as the leader talks about the mission)*

Since its beginning in 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal — to help people in need. Morning Star Mission helps people who are struggling to have enough money to live. They have a shelter that gives them a place to live if they don't have a home. People in the community can go to the mission to get clothes and food if they need it too. AND they tell people about Jesus and his love for them while they are helping them, how cool is that?

Morning Star doesn't just stop there. They have many programs that they offer people to help them get in a better financial place so that they don't need the help anymore. Morning Star is a mission that is changing lives in our area!

CG: Summer JAM Slide

It's almost time for Summer Jam! It's coming up very soon and we're so excited to invite you to these 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won't want to miss it. Tell whoever brought you that you need to visit the Summer Jam Tent after our time together today to sign up and get your t-shirt!

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