

CITY SG June 15-16, 2024

Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group led by one leader.

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, butcher paper (large piece of paper for every small group), markers

What You Do:

- If doing this as a large group activity, divide the kids into smaller groups.
- Set the butcher paper and markers out and have the kids sit around it.
- Ask them to think about an important fact or point from the story today that they remember.
- Have the kids draw something from the story that they remember.
- If they can't remember, they can listen as you review the story.
- They will each show the group what they drew and describe how it relates to the story.
- Read these as the kids are drawing to review the story:
 - For a whopping 70 years, the Israelites had been living in a faraway place called Babylon. But God had promised, through the prophet Jeremiah, that after 70 years, they'd be heading back home!
 - The Babylonian Empire was eventually overtaken by the Persian Empire. But God's promise didn't change. God moved the heart of the new Persian king, Cyrus, to favor the Jewish people. Not only did King Cyrus give the thumbs-up for them to go back home, but he also returned thousands of gold and silver dishes that had been taken from God's temple 70 years before.
 - Over 40,000 Jewish people came back to Jerusalem, but when they got there, they discovered that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins and the temple was completely destroyed. The people settled in the towns surrounding Jerusalem. Their leaders, especially a guy named Zerubbabel, knew the most important thing was to rebuild the temple—the place where they would come to worship and honor God. so, they honored God by starting with the temple.
 - Even though it was a bit scary, the people trusted God and built this massive, beautiful altar where they could make offerings to God. And once it was done, they started celebrating the feasts and festivals that God had given to Moses ages ago!
 - Next, they built the foundation of the temple. They still had to rebuild the rest of the temple, the city walls, and all of Jerusalem. Talk about a huge task! But you know what they did? Just like when they finished constructing the altar, they threw a massive party!
 - Finally, the temple foundation was done. The priests and Levites, with trumpets and cymbals, led the people in praising God. Sure, the foundation of the new temple wasn't as fancy as the first one, and they still had a long way to go—it took the builders decades more to finish the entire temple—but the people were bursting with joy because they finished one giant step. They celebrated each step of the way!

2. Joy Journal Page

What You Need: “Joy Journal Week 3” activity page, pen

- Give each kid a prepared “Joy Journal” Activity Page and a pen.
- Set out the markers.
- Read the Bottom Line and invite the kids to recite it with you a few times.
 - **Celebrate each step of the way.**
- Read the prompt in the “Joy Journal” to the group: “Think about steps for a new skill you have learned. Write or draw about each one on each step below.”
- Invite kids to share their steps.
- Tell the kids to hang these somewhere at home to remind them of the joy they have because of Jesus!

3. Memory Verse Tap

What You Need: Nothing

What You Do:

- Read this month’s memory verse to the group, “*A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.*” Proverbs 17:22 (NIRV)
- Instruct the kids to circle up.
- Select one kid to start the game.
- Instruct that kid to walk around the circle while tapping each kid’s head as they recite the words of the verse.
 - If they struggle to remember the words, encourage the group to recite the verse together, using their Bibles if needed.
- When the kid walking around the circle gets to the reference, instruct the kid they tap to get up and chase the tapper around the circle until one of them sits back down in the empty spot, Duck Duck Goose Style.
- Instruct the last kid standing to start a new round.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- “Dear God, thank You for reminding us of the things we have overcome and achieved. Help us to remember not to get stressed when we struggle to complete things or when they don’t go the way we think they should. Help us to remember that we will never be completely finished in this lifetime with all the things we might want to do or learn. Help us enjoy and celebrate the steps we accomplish and trust You to be with us as we keep going. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their joy journal page!