

CITY LG July 13-14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Heard It Through the Grapevine (Wedding at Cana) • *John 2:1-11*

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to have joy.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!*

Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

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

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

WORSHIP

Soldier On

Nothing Is Impossible

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

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! It's great to see you today. I'm so glad you're here, because this month we're talking about joy. Joy is about more than just feeling happy.

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

If we stop to remember how God has worked in the past . . . how God is working in our lives today . . . and how God will work in the future . . . then we can have joy that nothing will take away. We know that God loved us so much God sent Jesus to be our Savior—and THAT, my friends, is very good news. Because of Jesus, we always have the best reason to celebrate!

One really fun way to celebrate is to dance! Have you ever been to a wedding where everyone was dancing to really fun songs? *(Pause for responses.)* Well, we've got some of those wedding songs to dance to right now. Everyone on your feet. Do the dance moves with me.

Play a segment of a "wedding song" and teach the motions.

AUDIO: "YMCA" cued up to start at the recognizable part of the song (0:57)

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

Great job! How about this next one? I always love it when I'm at a wedding and the DJ puts this on.

AUDIO: "Cupid Shuffle" by Cupid, cued up to start at the recognizable part of the song (0:12)

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

I want to see our Small Group Leaders do this one. You know you're having fun at a wedding when you hear this!

AUDIO: "Electric Boogie" (a.k.a. the Electric Slide), cued up to start at the recognizable part of the song (0:13)

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

Okay, here's another wedding classic. Dance with me!

AUDIO: "The Chicken Dance"

Do the dance moves with the kids for about 15 seconds, then fade out the music.

I love it! Now let's make up our own dance moves to some other fun songs. Turn to your small group and come up with ONE special move that all of you will do together. I'll give you 30 seconds. Ready? Go!

Give the kids (roughly) 30 seconds to come up with their group's special move.

Do you have your special move? Are you ready to do your move together? Okay. We'll start some more wedding music. When I point to your group, you'll do your dance move along with the beat . . . and the rest of us will follow along. Here we go!

AUDIO: "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge

Move around the room, letting each small group demonstrate their dance move and then encouraging the rest of the room to do the move too. You can then do a "grand finale" by doing all of the moves in quick succession.

AUDIO: Fade out music

That was amazing! I loved seeing your joyful moves and your creativity.

Well, today I get to tell you about the very first miracle Jesus performed. We can read about it in the Bible, in the book of John. *(Hold up Bible.)*

This miracle took place at a really joyful event where lots of people had gathered.

Any guesses as to what it might have been? I'll give you a hint. Think about the songs that you danced to earlier. What kind of occasion do you think people were celebrating? *(Pause for responses.)* Right—a wedding!

Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

Jesus knew that it's important for us to celebrate and have joy. We can see that in the story we heard today, about how Jesus performed a miracle and turned water into wine.

There are lots of ways that Jesus showed us how to have joy. Jesus showed us the best way to live—by loving God and loving others. Jesus also showed joy in the way He treated other people. Stand up and let's check out our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line
SLIDE: Bottom Line

Jesus showed us how to have joy.

I know there are times in life when it can be hard to find joy. But we can always find joy when we remember that we can trust God no matter what. We can think about the good things in our lives that are really gifts from God.

Best of all, we can think about how God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. No matter what's happening around us, we can always remember what Jesus has done . . . and find joy!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

It's like our memory verse says for this month, "*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!*" Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

Let's pray.

God, it's amazing to read in the Bible about the miracles Jesus performed. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding . . . and the wedding guests were able to continue to celebrate and be joyful. Thank You for the way **Jesus showed us how to have joy**. We can find joy when we remember how much You love us, and when we think about what Jesus has done for us. We are so thankful! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.

OFFERING:

We have started raising money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It was founded by Michael Panther who grew up as a child with a disability in Sudan. Check out Michael's story.

VIDEO: Michael's Story

Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

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

SLIDE: Theme