

## CITY LG July 20-21, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Come Rain or Come Shine (Be Joyful with Others) • *Romans 12:15*  
(Supporting: *Acts 2:42-47*)

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can help others find joy.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

LG supplies: 2 hula hoops

### WORSHIP

Soldier On

Nothing Is Impossible

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

**SLIDE: Theme**

Hi there, friends! If you're glad to be here today, give a friend a high five like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Well, I'm really happy I'm here because we're talking about one of my very favorite things . . . JOY!

We might feel joyful when the sun is shining and everything is going our way. But we can also feel joyful on tough days . . . and on the in-between days too.

You see, joy doesn't come from the things that happen to us.

**SLIDE: Virtue**

We can find joy by **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**

**SLIDE: Theme**

We can see how God is working to do good things in our lives, or in the lives of other people. We can celebrate the good news that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That's something that can always bring us joy—no matter what!

One of my favorite ways to celebrate and Start the Party is by playing party games! Anybody want to play a really fun game? (*Pause for responses.*) Great! First, let's all make one really big circle.

*Get everyone to make a circle around the perimeter of the room. (If you have more than 30 kids, you may want to split them into two different circles.)*

Okay, I think we're ready. When I say 'go,' you'll grab the person's hand who's next to you—on both sides. I'll put this Hula-Hoop somewhere in the circle, hanging from someone's arm. You'll try to move the Hula-Hoop around the entire circle . . . without ever letting go of each other's hands!

Do you think we can do it? Can we get all the way around the circle in two minutes? Let's give it a try! On your mark, get set, go!

**VIDEO: 2 minute countdown**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (5-minute version, cued up to 2:00)**

*Quickly separate two kids' hands, then hang the Hula-Hoop around one of their arms. Then have those two kids rejoin hands. Cheer for the kids as they move the Hula-Hoop around the circle.*

**SLIDE: Theme**

Way to go, everyone! I can't believe how fast you got that Hula-Hoop around the circle. I saw some very joyful and very impressive shimmying!

Today we're looking at the book of Romans (*hold up Bible*) to find something we can do to help other people find joy. This is a really important idea, because we know how good it feels when someone helps US find joy. And like Jesus taught us, we should treat others the way we want to be treated.

(*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Romans was originally a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers who lived in Rome. Paul had never met these Jesus-followers before, but he prayed for them often, and he wanted to visit them. Paul wrote this letter because he wanted to encourage the believers in Rome and help them understand why God had sent Jesus to the world.

In his letter, Paul explained to the Romans that God had sent Jesus to set us free . . . and because of what Jesus has done for us, we can now choose to show God's love to others. Let's check it out.

**VIDEO: Bible Story**

Paul shared an important idea about how we can help others find joy. When someone else is full of joy, you can be full of joy WITH them! And if someone you know is sad, you can be sad with them so they know they're not alone. Choosing to be with someone in their sadness might even help them to be able to find joy . . . even if it's not right away. Let's stand up and practice our bottom line.

**VIDEO: Bottom Line**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**You can help others find joy.**

Of course, we can't always know exactly what everyone else is feeling. But we can use our imagination to think about how we might feel if we were going through what THEY'RE going through. We can pray and ask God to help us see the people around us and think about how we can share joy with them.

We can think about Jesus and remember how HE helped others find joy. Jesus shared God's love everywhere He went—especially with people who might have felt sad, hurt, or overlooked.

It's not always easy to celebrate with people who are celebrating, or to be sad with someone who is sad. It might not come naturally to us to do these kinds of things. But we can practice! And practice makes progress. The more we practice something, the better we get at it. And we know that God's Holy Spirit can help us show love in a way that will really mean a lot to the other person.

Let's pray and ask God to help us do that.

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

Dear God, thank You for Paul's reminder that we can help others find joy by loving them well. Please help us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Help us pay attention to the people around us . . . to notice what they're going through . . . and really feel what they feel. Thank You for the way You've created us to bring joy to each other's lives—in the good times and in the tough times too. 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 are collecting money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It provides wheelchairs to people with physical challenges in Africa. But they provide a lot more than just wheelchairs. Check out this video.

**VIDEO: Michael's Story 2**

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**