

**July Week 3**  
Backyard  
Start the Party

July 21

# CRAFT WEEK 3

## *Friendship Bracelets*

**SUPPLIES:** Heart cutouts, parent notes, straw beads, pipe cleaners, bowls

### What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children take a seat at the table. Pass out the pipe cleaners and heart cutouts, two per child.**
  - *“Friends, come over and sit at the table with me. We’re going to make something super special today. We’re going to make 2 friendship bracelets—one for you to keep and one for you to give away!”*
  - *“Everyone pick up one of your pipe cleaners and bend the end of it so our beads don’t fall off. Let’s start by putting our heart on the bracelet. It says **Jesus gives me joy**. Tell me: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**”*
- ⇒ **Set out bowls of straw beads and have children put them on the bracelets. Help children twist the ends of the pipe cleaner to make the bracelet.**
  - *“Now it’s time to add our beads. We made these out of straws cut up. Grab a couple and add them to your bracelet.”*
  - *“When your bracelet is long enough, we’re going to twist the ends together to make it into a bracelet.”*
- ⇒ **Instruct children to make a second bracelet and put the bracelets in their bags with a parent note.**
  - *“Great job friends! We’re all going to make 2 bracelets so you have one for you and one to give away. Pick up your second pipe cleaner and make a second friendship bracelet.” (For younger kids you may need to walk them through step by step again.)*
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
  - *“Today in our Bible Story, we heard how Paul taught people that Jesus loves us and that can give us joy. Paul said when we love like Jesus, we help our friends have joy. No matter how our friends are feeling—sad or happy, or any other way—we can help them have joy by loving them like Jesus, because Jesus loves us and Jesus gives us joy.”*
  - ***Who gives you joy?***  
**Jesus gives me joy!”**

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# **ACTIVITY #1**

## *Love Like Jesus*

**SUPPLIES:** Heart stress balls

### **What You DO and SAY:**

- ⇒ **Have children gather in a circle and give each child a heart.**
  - *“Friends, come make a circle with me on the floor. We are going to play a game to help us remember that we can love like Jesus! I’m going to give each of you a heart that we will use for our game.”*
- ⇒ **Read scenarios and have children toss their heart in the center of the circle for each scenario. After children share ideas, invite them to retrieve their heart and sit back down.**
  - *“I am going to talk about some different situations where we can love like Jesus. After I read each one, I want you to toss your heart into the center of the circle. Then raise your hands and when I call on you, I want you to share one way you could love like Jesus loves us in that situation.”*
    - *“When a friend is playing and they fall down and get hurt, how can you love like Jesus?”*
    - *“When a friend is SO happy because it’s their birthday, how can you love like Jesus?”*
    - *“When a friend drops his ice cream and it’s ruined and now he’s sad, how can you love like Jesus?”*
    - *“When you see someone playing all alone at the playground, how can you love like Jesus?”*
    - *“When your little sister is trying to reach a toy that you can reach, how can you love like Jesus?”*
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
  - *“We can help someone who is hurt. We can be happy and laugh when our friends are laughing and happy. We can sit with our friends when they’re sad. And we can play with them when they’re all alone and we can help! There are SO many ways we can love like Jesus. I’m SO glad to know that Jesus gives us joy.”*
  - ***Who gives you joy?***
  - ***Jesus gives me joy!”***

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## **ACTIVITY #2**

### *Hula Hoop Bottom Line*

**SUPPLIES:** 4 Hula Hoops

#### **What You DO and SAY:**

- ⇒ **Lay the 4 Hula hoops out in a row so that kids can easily jump from one to the next. Have kids join you near the hula hoops.**
  - *“Friends, we are going to use these hula hoops to answer our big question for this month. Do you remember what it was?”*
  - *Who gives you joy?*
  - *Jesus gives me joy!*
  - *Nice job!*
  
- ⇒ **Demonstrate hopping from hula hoop to hula hoop.**
  - *“Here is what you are going to do. I will ask you ‘Who gives you joy?’ and then you are going to hop and answer...”*
  - *(Hop) Jesus (Hop) gives (Hop) me (Hop) joy!*
  
- ⇒ **Let each child take a turn hopping from hoop to hoop and answering the question.**
  
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
  - *“Nice job, friends! All month long we are learning about joy that lasts forever, no matter what. And that joy only comes from one place: Jesus! Now tell me:*
  - ***Who gives you joy?***
  - ***Jesus gives me joy!”***

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# **ACTIVITY #3**

## *Share the Verse*

**SUPPLIES:** Little People figures

### **What You DO and SAY:**

- ⇒ **Have children join you in the center of the room and spread Little People figures around the group.**
  - *"Friends, let's review our Memory Verse and motions together. Ready? 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people,' (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.) Great job, friends."*
  - *"We want to share this news with all the people, so we're going to play a game to practice! Look around us, do you see all the little friends on the floor? (Pause.) When I say 'JOY,' I want you to get up, grab one of the little friends, and sit down with it. Then, we'll tell our memory verse to our friend!"*
- ⇒ **Have children find a Little People figure and sit down with it. Say the memory verse to the figures.**
  - *"'JOY!' Go find a friend and sit down! (Pause.) Set your friend down in front of you. Now, let's share our verse with the people."*
  - *"'I bring you good news of great that will be for all the people,' Luke 2:10. Fantastic!"*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then bring it back to the bottom line.**
  - *"God loves us so much that God gave His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Jesus came to give the whole world joy."*
  - ***Who gives you joy?***
  - ***Jesus gives me joy!***

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## READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY JUNE WEEK 3

### PASS OUT MOON SAND

#### READ

- *That's What a Friend Is!* By P.K. Hallinan

#### REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- ***Who gives you Joy?***
- ***Jesus gives me joy!***

⇒ Memory Verse

- ***"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*** Luke 2:10

#### CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ "Today we learned that we can help our friends have joy by loving them like Jesus! We're going to make a list of our friends. When I say your name, **tell me the name of one friend**, and I will write it down.

- *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*

⇒ Wow! Look at all our friends! Let's use our list when we pray...

⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:

- *"Dear God, thank You for teaching us how we can help our friends have joy. Please help (say each child's name) help their friends (read the list the children made) have joy when they feel sad or happy, by loving them like Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."*