Lesson 41

2s & 3s

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

May 30 & 31

JESUS IS OUR JOY

LESSON GOAL:

Background: In the Old Testament, God asked the Jewish people to slow down each season and celebrate the work He was doing in their lives. We call this Remember & Celebrate.

Lesson Goal: For kids to spend time reflecting on and celebrate together how Jesus is our joy!

Philippians 4:4-9, NIRV

4 Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! 5 Let everyone know how gentle you are. The Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. 7 Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood.

KEY VERSE:

God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

KIDS CAMP

You don't have to go far away to be a missionary. God has given you a mission field right where you are! Your school, your neighborhood, your team, and your friends are all places where you can show God's love every day. Being kind, including other kids and talking about Jesus are powerful ways to make a difference.

One of the best ways to be a missionary right now is by inviting your friends to Kids Camp! It's a fun, exciting time where they can learn about God, make new friends and experience God's love. Your invitation could change someone's life forever!

PRAY: Who is God asking you to invite to Kids Camp?

25 min

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.

WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**!You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.

FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

15 min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.

MAKE: Noise Maker

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: large bell, paper plates, ribbon pieces, markers and crayons

DO:

Pass out one paper plate per child. Have them decorate it with markers or crayons. Attach ribbons to the inside edge of plate. Fold paper plate in half, place one bell inside the folded plate and staple shut (ensure the plate is fully stapled so the bell does not come out). ***IMPORTANT: Do not let kids handle the bells as they can be a choking hazard.***

SAY:

Jesus is our joy! Let's make a special craft to help us celebrate Jesus!

CONNECT: Feasts & Festivals

Help kids understand the value of looking back and remembering what God has done in their lives and celebrating His goodness throughout history.

SAY:

Today, we want to take time to Remember & Celebrate! What are some special things you like to celebrate? ***(examples: birthdays, holidays, getting good grades in school, winning sports events)*** Why do you like to celebrate these things? ***(allow kids to respond)*** We celebrate things that are important to us or have a special meaning in our lives. Today, we're celebrating God and what He does for us. It's called Remember & Celebrate.

CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.

SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: *"Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

Craft Example

15 min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.

EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video **(Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s)**

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.

WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: Jesus Loves Me
SONG 2: This Little Light of Mine
WORSHIP RESPONSE: I've Got the Joy

BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: "I've got the Joy" from Plex

Jesus is our joy! That means we have joy and happiness in our hearts because of Jesus' love for us. Let's sing a song together to praise Jesus! ***Invite kids to stand and worship. Pass out instruments and ribbons. Play "I've Got the Joy" song from Plex.***

BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you have joy because of Jesus' love for you! May you share your joy with everyone around you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: hand clapper

INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.

SAY:

Hi Hamilton! ***Hamilton shaking hand clapper.*** What are you doing, Hamilton? ***Hamilton looks up and whispers in your ear.*** Oh! You're shaking this clapper because you're full of joy? ***Hamilton nods*** Did you know our joy comes from Jesus? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Hamilton, do you want to help tell our Bible story today about how Jesus is our joy? If you're ready to hear our story, can you wiggle your ears with me? ***Wiggle ears together.*** Let's dive in!

BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.

SAY:

Today is a very special day! It's Remember & Celebrate! We get to pause and celebrate who God is and what we've learned about Him lately! Today we're going to focus on how Jesus is our joy! Can you say that with me, friends? **Jesus is our joy!** That means we have joy in our hearts because of Jesus' love for us.

This is the Bible! It's God's Word to us and God's Word is true! God tells us in the Bible to "Always be joyful because we belong to the Lord!" That means be happy because of Jesus! Why? Because no matter what happens, Jesus is with us and loves us!

Even when we feel sad...Jesus is with us! Even when we feel mad...Jesus is with us! Even when we feel scared...Jesus is with us! Jesus loves us and we belong to Him!

Friends, when we remember that Jesus loves us and is with us, we can have joy! And when others see the joy we have, they see Jesus! **Jesus is our joy!**

15 min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.

SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.

SAY:

Today our God statement is **Jesus is Our Joy.** Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.

DO:

Use simple hand motions as you say the God Statement together.

ACTIVITY- Joyful Celebration

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: "I've Got the Joy" song on Plex, bubbles, smiley face stickers, flower stickers

SAY:

Have you ever been really, really happy opening a surprise or playing your favorite game and you couldn't stop smiling? That happy feeling inside is joy! Jesus fills our hearts with joy. Jesus doesn't just make us happy - He gives us true joy that lasts forever!

DO:

Turn on "I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart" while you blow bubbles and pass out one smiley face and one flower sticker to each child. Encourage kids to sing, dance, pop bubbles experience fun and happiness. After the song ends, talk about how much fun the experience was and how Jesus brings us lasting happiness called joy!

15 min

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.

SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).

GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.

DO:

- Play "I Spy" focusing on color, shape, and letter recognition
- Freeze Dance
- Duck, Duck, Goose
- Hide Hamilton
- Follow the Leader
- Which Doesn't Belong
- Hokey, Pokey
- Popcorn Parachute Game
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

5 min

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.

DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.