



SUMMER 2024 PARENT GUIDE

This summer, we're talking about JOY. It's so easy to have joy when we're celebrating-whether it's a birthday, winning a prize, or even Christmas-each party brings so much joy! But what happens when we aren't celebrating something, can we still have joy?

Because of Jesus we can be joyful all the time! When we think about who God is, what He's done, and how much He loves us-it's all worth celebrating! The JOY we experience is possible no matter what, and it lasts forever

WEEK 1

Story Focus: *I can have joy because God loves me.*

Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep to help us understand just how much God loves us. A shepherd leaves 99 sheep to search for one lost sheep, and when he finds it he rejoices! God's love for us is so big. We want our Preschoolers to know that God will always love them, and when we remember how much God loves us, I can have joy all the time.

WEEK 2

Story Focus: *I can have joy because God helps me.*

God wants His people, the Israelites, to take time to thank Him for all He had done. They grew lots of food, but it was God who helped them by providing the sun and rain to help the food grow. So the Israelites got everyone together and celebrated for seven days! We want our Preschoolers to know that they can have joy all the time because God helps them.

WEEK 3

Story Focus: *I can have joy when I do hard things.*

The temple was where God's people met to learn about God and praise God, but it had been destroyed. So God's people decided to rebuild the temple. Temples are really big, and it was going to take a lot of hard work to rebuild it. But some people start celebrating after the foundation was built! We can be like the people who chose to celebrate. We can look at the good things God is doing and have joy all the time.

WEEK 4

Story Focus: *I can have joy when I see what God*

has made. King David loved God, and he liked to write songs to God. One time he wrote a son because everywhere he looked he saw things God made that gave him joy. We can look around and see what God has made too. And we can have joy all the time too!



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WEEK 5

Story Focus: *I can have joy no matter what.*

Habakkuk reminds us that even when things don't go our way, we can still have joy and celebrate because God loves us. Habakkuk prays to God and says that, even if he couldn't grow any food or his farm didn't have any animals, he could still have joy because God loved him. We want our Preschoolers to know they can too, because God loves them too.

WEEK 6

Story Focus: *Jesus can to give the world joy.* An angel appears to tell some shepherds some good news that would cause great joy for all people. As in the whole world! Those shepherds went from frozen in fright to running with wonder! Joy had comes into the world! The shepherds knew they needed to share the joy that Jesus gave them with EVERYONE because Jesus came to give everyone joy. Now we get to teach our Preschoolers that Jesus came to give them joy too! That's worth celebrating

WEEK 7

Story Focus: *Jesus helps us have joy.* While Jesus, His mom Mary and His disciples are guests at a wedding, the servants run out of the special wedding drink. Jesus' mom went right to the one person she knew could help-Jesus! Jesus did something only He can do and turned six huge jars of water into the special wedding drink. Now, everyone could continue celebrating the bride and groom. Jesus gave the people at the wedding joy, and Jesus can give us joy too.

WEEK 8

Story Focus: *I can help my friends have joy.* Paul wrote a letter to Jesus' friends, and He told them how they could love like Jesus and help their friends have joy. We can love like Jesus and help our friends have joy when we sit with our friends while they are sad or when we are excited with our friends when they are excited. We can love like Jesus because Jesus loves us and Jesus gives us joy!

WEEK 9

Story Focus: *I can have joy forever because Jesus wants to be my friend forever.* Jesus is God's Son and Jesus wants to be our friend forever. And when Jesus is our friend forever, we can have JOY forever. Heaven will be a party that never ends, and Jesus is getting Heaven ready for all of His friends. No more pain, scarp, sickness, or sadness. We will have joy all the time because we will be with our friend Jesus, and Jesus gives us joy!