



Fruit of the Spirit

Joy - Lesson 2

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

Circle Time

Supplies:
10 coins

Have any of you ever lost something that you love very much? (Allow time for them to answer.) What did you do? Did you search all over for it?

Jesus told a story in Luke 15 about a woman who lost some money. She had ten silver coins. (Show the children the coins in your hand.) Do you like it when you have money so you can buy something you want at the store? Your favorite candy bar or a small toy? Well, this woman had ten coins but she lost one. If you lost a coin what would you do? This woman lit a lamp and then swept and searched everywhere for it until she could find the one coin she lost. Then she called her friends and neighbors together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin." Then Jesus said, "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

Jesus told this story to teach how much joy (rejoicing) God and the angels in heaven have when one person asks God to forgive them of their sins. He cares about each one of us and wants us all to be free of sin and have a relationship with Him.

How do you feel when you have done something wrong and sinned? Do you feel icky inside? I know I do. God cares about us and doesn't want us to sin because He knows sin breaks our relationship with Him and with others. But when we do sin He wants to forgive us. He wants to free us from that icky feeling. He does forgive us when we ask Him to. We just need to admit we were wrong and say we are sorry. This brings joy to God because when we say we are sorry our sin no longer separates us from

Him. It is like the woman finding her lost coin. God rejoices over having a relationship with us that is made right through forgiveness. It also brings joy to us because we are free from the icky feeling sin gives us. We can rejoice and be glad that we are forgiven and God loves us no matter what.

We can't have joy without God. When we trust God and follow His ways His love will be in us and we will experience His joy in our lives. Remember our memory verse? "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!" Philippians 4:4. Let's say it together.

Let's pray that God will fill us with His joy. Does anyone have anything they would like to pray about today?

Prayer Time

Share prayer requests and pray together.

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the "Take-Home" activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



Lost Coin Treasure Hunt

Supplies:
10 coins

You will hide the coins in various places around the classroom for the children to find. Make sure you place the coins in places that are easy to find for the younger children, such as in corners of the room, on top of tables, taped to the wall, under chairs, or behind doors.

The kids get to look for the missing coins. A suggestion is to let the children find as many coins as they can, and then once all of the coins are collected, have them share with anyone who did not find one. This way you can also teach the benefits of sharing. (Or you can have the children stop looking after they find a certain amount so that each child finds about the same amount.)



Joy Necklaces

Supplies:
Yarn
Pony beads

“Joy” medallion (1 per child)

Give each child yarn, pony beads, and a “joy” medallion with hole punched in the top. Each child will put the “joy” medallion on their yarn and then put beads on each side of it.



Full of Joy

Supplies:

Small trash can

Plastic food

What is it like to be full of joy? Let's see if we can show Mr. Trashcan what it looks like to be full of joy. Let's see if you can get Mr. Trashcan to be so full of joy that he is over flowing. (Have the kids throw plastic food (etc) into the trashcan until it is overflowing.)



Fruit of the Spirit Bingo

Supplies:

Bingo sheets (1 per child)

Markers/chips

Have the children play Bingo. Have them go for five in a row first. If there is time left, let the children go for black out and they will all win at the same time!



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