

PRESCHOOL

Date MAY 19, 2024



“To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in
the heavens!” Psalm 123:1

BIG QUESTION: What is the difference between happiness and joy?
(Joy is a deep knowing that God loves me and is on my side!)

Psalm 126:1-6

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- 5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- 6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.



Arrival & Free Time (30 minutes)

Objective: Connect with the kids through games and play time (kids attending worship with families will arrive about 20 minutes in)

Clean Up (5 minutes)

Objective: Before moving onto the next thing, get the toys picked up and the classroom organized

Bible Story Time (10 minutes)

Objective: Learning God’s Word in an applicable way for preschool kids

Prayer Time (*5 minutes)

*take as much time as needed

Objective: Talking to God is our greatest privilege

Craft Time (10-15 minutes)

Objective: Apply what you have learned through creativity

Play Time (5-10 minutes)

Objective: Now that we have learned God’s Word, let’s have some well deserved fun

Clean Up / Dismissal (3-5 minutes)

Objective: Respect your leaders and God’s house by leaving the classroom clean and tidy

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Free Time & Clean Up (35 minutes)

The goal of this time is connecting and interacting with the kids. Three- and four-year-olds love to share all kinds of fun facts with adults. Be attentive and ask questions that encourage them to share about their lives. The more invested in the kids we are, the more they will be invested in what we have to teach them.

Some kids will attend worship with their families and arrive about 20 minutes after the service starts. Allow free time to continue long enough for them to have time to play for about 5 or 10 minutes.

Bible Story Time and Prayer Time (15 minutes)

While the whole passage is included on page one, we will only cover the main points with the preschool class. Most weeks will have two or three main points that all direct back to the big question of the day. These points will coincide with the sermon for that day, helping to enhance our *full family experience*. It is important that we keep in mind that the preschool class needs to be taught on a preschool level, so keep things light, fun and applicable for their age group. An example of how to tell the Bible Story will be given each week, but feel free to make it your own. As long as the main points are covered, the children will learn the most when the teacher feels confident in the presentation.

Craft Time (10-15 minutes)

Craft time gives the kids the opportunity to create something that goes along with what they have learned. This allows kids to take home a piece of the lesson to share with their families. This is another way we can incorporate a *full family experience*. Supplies and instructions will be provided.

Play Time (5-10 minutes)

Being mindful that preschoolers have a shorter attention span than older kids, having extra built in play time in the schedule is a must. When nice enough, take the kids outside to play. Just like during the free time at the beginning, use this time to connect and interact with the kids.

Clean Up and Dismissal (3-5 minutes)

Our goal is for the kids to feel that their classroom is their space. Being responsible for leaving the room the way it was when they arrived helps teach responsibility. Make a game out of it and make it fun, and kids will actually look forward to this time. Parents should be arriving at this point, so dismiss in an orderly fashion.

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BIBLE STORY TIME:

When was the last time you saw someone be really really excited about something? (Allow kids to answer). What about their excitement stood out to you? Were they yelling? Jumping up and down? (Allow kids to respond).

Begin the discussion by watching this video. The purpose of this video is for the kids to understand what the difference between "happiness" and "joy" is. Give a few examples of a time where you felt happy and allow the kids to share a time they felt happy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uNQnvaGrxQ>

After the video, redefine the word "joy". Explain how "joy" is "a deep knowing that God loves me and is on my side".

Connect true joy to the story of Paul and Silas. Explain that Paul and Silas went around telling everyone they saw about Jesus. They went to really cool places, but they also went to really dangerous places. Many people did not like that Paul and Silas were telling people about Jesus. Paul and Silas were arrested and had to spend many nights in jail. How do you think this made them feel? (Allow kids to answer).

They were probably really scared because they were in an unfamiliar place. It was probably really dark in the jail and they did not have any friends to comfort them. It probably smelly bad because no one could get showers. How would you feel if this happened to you? (Allow kids to answer)

Paul and Silas could have been very scared, but you would have never known because they were singing and praising God even when they were still in jail! The people around them heard them singing to God and they knew that God was with them. Paul and Silas showed their joy for the Lord even in a really hard time and other people around them were able to see this joy and they believed in Jesus!

Read Psalm 126:2-3

Sermon Connection:

These verses remind us of Paul and Silas too. Like the psalmist who wrote these words, Paul and Silas showed joy through songs of praise. Even though they were in a dark, stinky prison, they remembered and celebrated that "the LORD had done great things for them and they were glad!"

Let's pray and thank God for filling us with joy!

CRAFT: Fruit Loop Activity Sheet & Necklace

- (1) Activity sheet: Give each child a Joy activity sheet and allow to color. Then, help the kids glue the fruit loops inside the letters.
- (2) Necklace: Give each child a Joy pendant to color and help them slide onto the yarn. Help the kids place the fruit loops on either side of the pendant and then tie (large enough to fit over their head).