

Week 2 Curriculum

Joy and Peace

Week 2 Memory Verse: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7

Monday, June 17

Lesson: Ezra- Joy

- **Large Group Bible Lesson** (30 minutes - led by youth group):
 - Introduce the Fruit of the Spirit “Joy” - talk about the difference between happiness and joy. TELL the children that they will be learning about how God brought joy to his people.
 - What makes you happy? What fills your heart with happiness, cheerfulness, and joy? Do you feel happy when it's your birthday or when you have fun with your family? Maybe you feel happy when you get a present or when you play with your friends. God loves it when we are happy. But there's so much more to true happiness than enjoying our birthday, or getting presents, or having a good time. Real joy and happiness come from knowing God and remembering how much he loves us.
 - In the Old Testament time, God's people gathered together to celebrate his goodness. Knowing God took care of them and repeatedly filled them with joy and happiness. See how the people celebrated as they remembered how God had helped them...act out or tell the story from Nehemiah 8:1-18
 - What a joyful time that was as the Israelites listened to God's Word and remembered how he took care of them.
- **Activities (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the **activities guideline** at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange Group	Board Games/Art & Crafts
Blue Group	Memory Verse
Yellow Group	Outside Play

- **Small Group Review Time** (30 minutes - led by Impact Interns):
 - Step 1, Come Together (From attached Believe Curriculum Lesson 22)
 - REVIEW THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES • ASK, What made the Israelites so unhappy? (They were guilty of sin) • ASK, How did they find joy? (They listened to God’s Word; they celebrated; they shared food) • ASK, How did they celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles? (The Israelites used tree branches to create booths that they lived in during the feast, which was also called the Feast of Booths; they celebrated joyfully with food and drink) • PRAY, God, please help us to maintain our joy even when life is hard. We want “the joy of the Lord” to be our strength. Amen.

Tuesday, June 18

Lesson: Birth of Jesus -Joy

- **Large Group Bible Lesson** (30 minutes - led by youth group):
 - In the New Testament, one of the most joyful times was the night Jesus was born. God’s angels came from heaven with the most wonderful news the world had ever heard. They came to some shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem. It was a night the shepherds would never forget. Luke 2:1-20 Act out a skit to tell the Nativity Story.
 - Conclusion: Can you imagine how happy those Shepherds felt when they found baby Jesus? They truly did find joy that day. And guess what? Jesus still brings joy to everyone who knows him. Knowing God and his son Jesus is what makes us happy. Think about it - God loves you! He has a marvelous plan for your life. God is with you every single day. You can count on him. When you know these wonderful things, you’ll be filled with joy no matter what happens. The joy that comes from Jesus will be in you, and no one will ever be able to take it away.
- **Activities (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the **activities guideline** at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange Group	Outside Play
Blue Group	Board Games/Arts & Crafts
Yellow Group	Memory Verse

- **Small Group Review Time** (30 minutes - led by Impact Interns):
 - Option 1, Joy Treasure Hunt (Lesson 22 Believe Curriculum attached)
 - REVIEW JESUS’ BIRTH • ASK, What were some things that could have made the time of Jesus’ birth an unhappy event? (Traveling far; not having a place to stay) • ASK, Why was Jesus’ birth such a joyous event? (He is the Savior of the world; the Jews had been waiting a long time for the Messiah; he is the fulfillment of many of God’s promises) • ASK, Were the shepherds filled with joy at the news of Jesus’ birth? (Not at first; they were terrified by the angels that appeared to them, but then they went to see Jesus and spread the joyful news to others)

Wednesday, June 19

Lesson: Solomon (Peace)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by youth group): 1 Kings 1:1-15, 4:20-25**
 - Introduce the Fruit of the Spirit **“Peace”** see pgs 2-3 of curriculum (Lesson 23). Acting the story is always a fun way to tell the story. Here is a skit Option 6: Act it Out pgs 7-8 of curriculum
 - Introduce Peace - Step 1, Come Together (Lesson 23 Peace in Believe Curriculum attached)
 - Solomon: Because God is a God of peace, he wants us to live in peace with him, with others, and with ourselves. So how can we do that? Let’s start by watching a skit (that your teens act out) about King Solomon. When Solomon became king of God’s people, God gave the people a long time of peace. They lived happily with one another and the nations around them.
 - Conclusion: Can you see how Solomon lived in peace with God and others? Solomon had a wonderful relationship with God. He prayed, worshiped, and thanked God for everything he had. He made friends with all the kingdoms around him and made sure that everyone in his kingdom lived in peace.

- **Activities (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the **activities guideline** at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange Group	Memory Verse
Blue Group	Outside Play
Yellow Group	Board Games/Arts & Crafts

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Impact Interns):**
 - Option 2, Peace with God Game (Lesson 23 Believe Curriculum attached)

Thursday, June 20

Lesson: Jesus Calms the Storm (Peace)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by youth group):**
 - Mark 4:35-41 - This is a great story for your teens to act out for our children. Be creative with costumes and props. Be sure to focus on the aspect of peace.
 - Option 5, Act it Out (Lesson 23 Believe Curriculum attached)
 - Conclusion: Wow! How Amazing that Jesus calmed those waves, just by reaching out his hand and speaking. Jesus brought peace to his disciples, and he can bring peace to us too. We can find strength in Jesus. Remember that God wants us to live in peace. The next time you start to worry or feel afraid, talk to Jesus, and let Jesus give you the precious gift of his peace.

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Impact Interns):**
 - REVIEW JESUS CALMS THE STORM • ASK, What happened to Jesus and his disciples when they were on the lake? (A terrible storm hit) • ASK, What was Jesus doing during the storm? (He was sleeping) • ASK, What did Jesus do about the storm? (He only had to speak to the storm in order to bring peace) • ASK, What did Jesus indicate was the cause of the disciples' fear? (They had no faith)
 - PRAY, Father God, please help us to know and experience your peace when we are worried or afraid. Increase our faith. Thank you that everything in our lives is under your control. Amen.

- **No Activities on Thursdays**

Activities Guidelines

This Summer instead of the normal rotations we have done in years past, each color group will go to ONE activity per day. Therefore, your group will only need to plan **3 activities** for the entire week. Activities will take place immediately following Large Group time for 30 minutes. This time will be less structured, but the idea is that the Impact children “little buddies” will pair up with the youth group “big buddies” and have time to build their relationship and dig deeper. At the end of Large Group time, we will put 3 “dig deep” questions on the screen for the buddies to discuss together during activity time. Plan for about 60-70 kids in each group.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Board Games/Arts & Crafts	Orange Group	Blue Group	Yellow Group
Memory Verse	Blue Group	Yellow Group	Orange Group
Outside Play	Yellow Group	Orange Group	Blue Group

Board Games/Arts & Crafts - This activity will take place in the Spanish auditorium and classrooms 5 & 6. We will provide some board games and art supplies but encourage you to bring some of your own games and art supplies. This is a “free choice” time for the children and their buddies. The children are required to stay in the designed area and participate but they can choose any activity they would like in those 30 minutes.

Memory Verse - This activity will take place in rooms 1 & 2. Please prepare several memory verse games and activities for the children to participate in during this time to help them memorize the summer and weekly verses.

- *Summer Memory Verse:* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. - Galatians 5:22-23
- *Week 2 Memory Verse:* Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7

Sample Memory Verse Activities

- **Cup stacking** - Write each word of the verse on a cup and mix them up. Have the kids work together to put the verse in order by stacking the cups.
- **Hand Signs:** Assign a hand motion for each word of the verse. Teach the children the hand signs and the words at the same time. Then say the words while the children only do the hand motions. And then do the hand motions while the children say the words.
- **Volley Verse:** Sit or stand in a circle. Take a soft ball or balloon and pass it around in a circle, each person saying one word of the verse as they hold the ball and pass it on. Go fast and slow, repeating the whole verse each time. When the kids feel comfortable saying the verse, volley the ball from person to person across the circle, letting each person say one word as they pass the ball.
- **Verse Pop:** Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Put each paper inside a balloon and inflate the balloon. Let the children who are sitting the most quietly pop the balloon handed to them, and say the word they find inside. Have all the children repeat the word and continue until all the balloons are popped. Have a copy of the entire verse ready so that, in the end, the children can see the whole verse on one page. Repeat the verse several times with all the children.
- **Verse Puzzle:** Write the verse on a piece of paper and cut the paper into 6-10 pieces.

Let the children put the puzzle together as a team. Make sure everyone gets a chance to help. When it is finished, say the verse altogether. Put the puzzle together again. See how fast the children can finish the puzzle and say the verse.
- **Memory Verse Challenge:** Make signs using construction paper with one or two words of the verse on each. Have several workers or children stand at the front and hold the signs so that everyone can see the words. Lead the children in saying the verse together a few times. Then, one at a time, have the sign holders hide their sign, and say the verse together again. Repeat this until all the signs are hidden and say the verse one more time.
- **Teams:** Divide the kids into two teams. Let one side say the first part of the verse and let the others complete it. See how loud and soft and fast and slow each side can be. (Remember you can be creative in your team divisions: Boys v. Girls, Sandals v. Tennis)

Shoes, Eye or Hair Colors, kids wearing shorts v. kids wearing jeans...etc.) Compliment both teams on a job well done.

- **Outside Play** - This activity will take place in the outside area of Impact - we have a volleyball court, basketball court, and gaga ball pit. We encourage you to bring sports equipment and your own games to teach the kids. However, like the board games activity - the children are free to choose what they would like to do during this time. It is important that all children are paired up with a big buddy during this time.

In the event of rain, this activity will move to the large English Auditorium to play large group games.



LESSON 22 | Joy

Bible Basis: Nehemiah 8:13–17; Luke 2:1–20

Key Verse: John 15:11: “I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have.”

Key Question: What gives us true happiness and contentment in life?

Key Idea: No matter what happens, I feel happy inside and understand God’s plan for my life.

Resources:

- Video 22, “Joy”
- *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 22, “Joy”

Master Supplies List

- Believe Kids’ Edition*
- Video 22, “Joy”
- DVD player
- Whiteboard or flipchart with easel
- Dry-erase or regular markers
- Family Page (one per student)

Optional Supplies

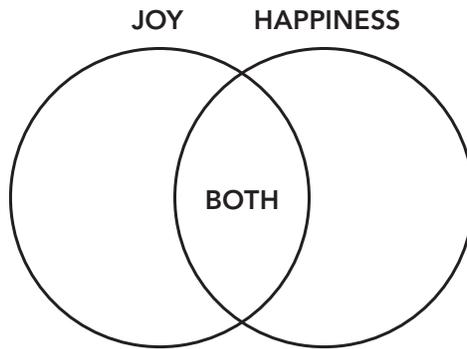
You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Bibles, pens or pencils, Joy Treasure Hunt worksheets (one per student), concordances (optional)
- OPTION 2:** Yarn balls or sponge balls (one per student)
- OPTION 5:** Copies of the Psalm 100 script (one per student)

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Whiteboard or flipchart with easel, dry-erase or regular markers

Teacher Prep: Draw a large Venn diagram (overlapping circles) on the board or flipchart. Label the circles "Joy" and "Happiness" and the overlapping section "Both."



- GATHER the students.
- ASK, What are some things that make you sad? (Take responses)
- SAY, Sometimes hard things happen in life. People and pets that we love die. People get sick. People hurt us. These things can make us feel sad, and it's okay and normal to feel sad. But the Bible says that God gives his children a gift that nothing and no one in this world can take away.
- ASK, Do you know what this gift is? (pause) It's a thing called joy. The Bible says, "The joy of the Lord is our strength."
- EXPLAIN, Joy comes from knowing that God is good all the time, even when life is hard or sad. Our joy comes from knowing that we have a hope that God will one day wipe away every tear from our eyes and create a world with no sadness and no pain. This joy comes from knowing that God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us and to love us forever. This joy comes from knowing that you are chosen by God, you are loved by God, and you are known by God. Nothing and no one in this world can take these promises from you.
- SAY, Today's lesson is about joy. The word *joy* is often used instead of the word *happiness*, but they're not quite the same. I am hoping you can help me to think through some of the differences between happiness and joy.
- ASK the students to contribute ideas. Write their ideas in the appropriate section of the diagram. Below are some examples:

JOY

- Comes from inside a person or from the Holy Spirit
- Is one of God's gifts to his children
- Is based on a decision or a choice (we choose joy when we believe)
- Lasts even during hard times
- Comes from knowing Jesus
- Can't be taken away from us

HAPPINESS

- Doesn't last; is temporary
- Comes from outside influences or things that happen to us
- Can be taken away from us
- Is promised to us by the world through money, fame, and popularity
- Is a feeling that goes away when something bad happens

JOY AND HAPPINESS

- Are both good feelings
- Make us smile
- Can be shared with others

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week's Key Verse together.

John 15:11: "I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have."

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (20 min)

Supplies: Video 22, "Joy"; DVD player; *Believe Kids' Edition*

Teacher Prep: Have the video set and ready to play.

WATCH VIDEO 22 / READ CHAPTER 22

- WATCH video 22, "Joy," included with this curriculum.
- READ "Joy When Jesus Came" (Luke 2:6-20) from *Believe Kids' Edition*.

REVIEW THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

- ASK, What made the Israelites so unhappy? (They were guilty of sin)
- ASK, How did they find joy? (They listened to God's Word; they celebrated; they shared food)

- ASK, How did they celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles? (The Israelites used tree branches to create booths that they lived in during the feast, which was also called the Feast of Booths; they celebrated joyfully with food and drink)
- PRAY, God, please help us to maintain our joy even when life is hard. We want “the joy of the Lord” to be our strength. Amen.

REVIEW JESUS’ BIRTH

- ASK, What were some things that could have made the time of Jesus’ birth an unhappy event? (Traveling far; not having a place to stay)
- ASK, Why was Jesus’ birth such a joyous event? (He is the Savior of the world; the Jews had been waiting a long time for the Messiah; he is the fulfillment of many of God’s promises)
- ASK, Were the shepherds filled with joy at the news of Jesus’ birth? (Not at first; they were terrified by the angels that appeared to them, but then they went to see Jesus and spread the joyful news to others)

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help the students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Joy Treasure Hunt (20 min)

Supplies: Bibles, pens or pencils, Joy Treasure Hunt worksheets (one per student), concordances (optional)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Joy Treasure Hunt worksheet (one per student).

- SAY, The Bible mentions *happiness* about thirty times, but mentions *joy* about three hundred times! Today you’re going to look at just a few of these verses that mention *joy*.
- DIVIDE the students into pairs or small groups, depending on how many Bibles you have available.
- GIVE each pair or group a Bible, pens or pencils, and one Joy Treasure Hunt worksheet per student.
- INSTRUCT the students to look up the verses listed on their sheet and write down the verse, capitalizing the word *JOY* when they find it.
- **NOTE:** If you have concordances (or a concordance in the back of your Bible), you may choose to have students find additional verses about joy and share them with the class.

- SAY, We don't have time to look up over three hundred instances of *joy* in the Bible, but you can hunt for them in your own Bible.
- ENCOURAGE the students to look up even more verses about joy on their own.

Option 2: Spread the Joy (15 min)

Supplies: Yarn balls or sponge balls (one per student)

Teacher Prep: This game requires an open area, such as a gym or field.

- SET up a rectangular play area using court or field lines or cones.
- CHOOSE two students to start as “Joyful” players and have them stand at one end of the play area.
- LINE UP the other students, side by side, facing the “Joyful” players, about six to eight steps away. These are the “Unhappy” players.
- GIVE each “Joyful” player a yarn or sponge ball.
- INSTRUCT them to make an underhand toss, attempting to “tag” one of the “Unhappy” players with the yarn ball. The “Joyful” players get one toss per turn, unless no “Unhappy” players were tagged. (The “Unhappy” students may move their bodies to dodge the ball, but must not move their feet.)
- INSTRUCT any players who were tagged to join the “Joyful” players.
- INSTRUCT the others to take three large steps away from the “Joyful” players.
- CONTINUE playing in this fashion. With each round, more students will be tossing balls, but the targets will be farther and farther away.
- START the game over when all but two players are “Joyful.” The two “Unhappy” players that are left become the “Joyful” players, while the rest of the group starts over on the “Unhappy” side.

Option 3: Joyful Role Play (15 min)

- ASSIGN students as partners.
- INSTRUCT them to work with their partners to come up with a realistic scenario in which one person is unhappy.
- ASSIST younger students as necessary, suggesting scenarios they could use. You may also choose to have some scenarios pre-written for them to discuss, or you could have one- to two-sentence prompts for the students to read if they have a hard time brainstorming realistic scenarios.
- TELL them to plan a role-play in which one person talks about his or her unhappiness and the other helps to find a reason to be joyful,

regardless of the circumstances. They should not write a script, but plan the types of things they will say in a realistic conversation.

- ALLOW the students to present their role-plays in front of the class. Redirect as necessary or bring up topics from the role-play scenarios as a class discussion.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (10 min)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” by Bob Singleton
© 2002 by Agnes Day Music (admin. by Singleton Productions, Inc.)
CCLI #4596811

“There Is a Kingdom” by Jason Ingram and Laura Story
© 2013 by Laura Story
(admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
CCLI #7003270

Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

Psalm 100

Supplies: Copies of the Psalm 100 script (one per student)

Teacher Prep: If you have a large group, choose up to twelve readers. Or, sit in a circle and go around the circle. Print and photocopy the Psalm 100 script (one per student for the entire class).

All students: “Psalm 100: A psalm for giving thanks.”

Student 1: Although this song was written thousands of years ago, it is relevant today. It teaches us to thank God and experience his everlasting joy!

All students: “Shout to the LORD with joy, everyone on earth.”

Student 2: The joy of the Lord is available to all who believe. Being saved by Jesus is not just for a select few, but for everyone on earth.

All students: “Worship the LORD with gladness.”

Student 3: Our worship is not a chore—something we dread doing. No, our worship is a privilege—something we choose to do because we love God and we want to show him. As we delight in worshiping God, we experience true joy.

All students: “Come to him with songs of joy.”

Student 4: This is an invitation offered to everyone. God reached down from heaven when he sent Jesus to die for our sins. Now we have the opportunity to come to him with praise.

All students: “I want you to realize that the LORD is God.”

Student 5: God is the one true God. As believers, our faith is not blind. We can be sure of his absolute goodness.

All students: “He made us, and we belong to him.”

Student 6: God is the Creator of the universe. He is the Creator of you and me. He knows the number of hairs on our heads, and he wants us to know him. God wants to be our good Father and friend.

All students: “We are his people.”

Student 7: When we believe in Jesus, we become God’s people. We help God fulfill his plans on earth. We can have joy in knowing our lives have a purpose.

All students: “We are the sheep belonging to his flock.”

Student 8: God is a good shepherd, caring for us and giving us what we need. This promise can bring us joy even in hard times.

All students: “Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple. Give praise as you enter its courtyards.”

Student 9: This is a public profession of faith. The joy of the Lord cannot be contained, and our light is not to be hidden under a basket, but shared with others.

All students: “Give thanks to him and praise his name.”

Student 10: By giving thanks in all things, we take the focus off our own problems and worries. Thankfulness helps us to have joy in knowing that God is in control.

All students: “The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever.”

Student 11: God’s love never fails. The joy he brings does not come and go based on our circumstances. God will never leave us.

All students: “God’s love will last for all time to come.”

Student 12: We can have joy that we have an everlasting home and place to belong in God’s kingdom.

All students:

“Shout to the LORD with joy, everyone on earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come to him with songs of joy.

I want you to realize that the LORD is God.

He made us, and we belong to him.

We are his people.

We are the sheep belonging to his flock.”

“Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.
Give praise as you enter its courtyards.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever.
It will last for all time to come.”

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per student).

- **GIVE** each student a copy of this week’s Family Page.
- **SAY**, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about the joy we have when we believe in Jesus.
- **HAVE** students practice telling you about how joy is different from happiness.
- **REVIEW** this week’s Key Verse as well as today’s story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- **MAKE** sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 22: Joy

Bible Basis: Nehemiah 8:13–17; Luke 2:1–20

Key Verse: John 15:11: “I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have.”

Key Question: What gives us true happiness and contentment in life?

Key Idea: No matter what happens, I feel happy inside and understand God’s plan for my life.

Resource: *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 22, “Joy”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe Kids’ Edition* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. When was a time you felt joy even though you weren’t exactly happy?
2. Do you think Christians are “faking it” if we act joyful in unpleasant circumstances? What’s the difference?
3. What types of worship bring you the most joy? What areas of your faith feel more like a chore?
4. What are some ways you can share your joy with others?

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child choose a favorite “joyful” song and choreograph simple movements to accompany it. Some good options are “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” “Joy to the World,” “There Is a Kingdom,” and “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy.” Encourage your child to express their joy through

movement. Your child can perform the choreography along with the music and teach it to others.

Option 2

Give your child some old magazines or newspapers to cut out any pictures that make them think of joy. Make a collage of any pictures (or words) that describe joy to your child. Write this week's Key Verse on the collage and hang it up in a place where your child will see it every day.

Extra Mile

- During prayer, remind your child that although we sometimes feel sadness and pain, the joy that God gives us lasts forever. Read some of the Bible's descriptions of heaven with your children. See Revelation 21:1–5 and Isaiah 65:17–25.
- The Bible mentions *happiness* about thirty times, but mentions *joy* about three hundred times! Use a concordance to look up some of these verses as a “Bible treasure hunt.” Share and discuss the verses with your child.
- Your family will experience more joy when you focus on blessings rather than challenges. When tough times occur or complaints arise, acknowledge the difficulties and the feelings associated with them without minimizing the hurt, and remember to look for the “silver lining” in the situation. Even when it's tough to find the positive, we can always rely on the truth that God is in control, he loves us, and he has promised he has a plan for our lives.
- Create a family “joy jar,” with an empty glass jar and some small slips of paper. Encourage all family members to jot down little “joy notes” throughout the week when they are feeling particularly blessed. The “joy notes” are simply things to praise God for, things that give you a reason to say, “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” At the end of the week, read through the slips over dinner and share the joy as a family.

Joy Treasure Hunt

Name _____

1 Chronicles 16:31 _____

Job 8:21 _____

Psalms 9:2 _____

Psalms 30:11 _____

Psalms 96:11 _____

Proverbs 15:30 _____

Isaiah 49:13 _____

Romans 5:2-3 _____

Galatians 5:22 _____

Philippians 4:4 _____

Psalm 100 Script

All students: "Psalm 100: A psalm for giving thanks."

Student 1: Although this song was written thousands of years ago, it is relevant today. It teaches us to thank God and experience his everlasting joy!

All students: "Shout to the Lord with joy, everyone on earth."

Student 2: The joy of the Lord is available to all who believe. Being saved by Jesus is not just for a select few, but for everyone on earth.

All students: "Worship the Lord with gladness."

Student 3: Our worship is not a chore—something we dread doing. No, our worship is a privilege—something we choose to do because we love God and we want to show him. As we delight in worshiping God, we experience true joy.

All students: "Come to him with songs of joy."

Student 4: This is an invitation offered to everyone. God reached down from heaven when he sent Jesus to die for our sins. Now we have the opportunity to come to him with praise.

All students: "I want you to realize that the Lord is God."

Student 5: God is the one true God. As believers, our faith is not blind. We can be sure of his absolute goodness.

All students: "He made us, and we belong to him."

Student 6: God is the Creator of the universe. He is the Creator of you and me. He knows the number of hairs on our heads, and he wants us to know him. God wants to be our good Father and friend.

All students: "We are his people."

Student 7: When we believe in Jesus, we become God's people. We help God fulfill his plans on earth. We can have joy in knowing our lives have a purpose.

All students: "We are the sheep belonging to his flock."

Student 8: God is a good shepherd, caring for us and giving us what we need. This promise can bring us joy even in hard times.

All students: "Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple. Give praise as you enter its courtyards."

Student 9: This is a public profession of faith. The joy of the Lord cannot be contained, and our light is not to be hidden under a basket, but shared with others.

All students: "Give thanks to him and praise his name."

Student 10: By giving thanks in all things, we take the focus off our own problems and worries. Thankfulness helps us to have joy in knowing that God is in control.

All students: "The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever."

Student 11: God's love never fails. The joy he brings does not come and go based on our circumstances. God will never leave us.

All students: "God's love will last for all time to come."

Student 12: We can have joy that we have an everlasting home and place to belong in God's kingdom.

All students:

"Shout to the LORD with joy, everyone on earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come to him with songs of joy.

I want you to realize that the LORD is God.

He made us, and we belong to him.

We are his people.

We are the sheep belonging to his flock."

"Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.

Give praise as you enter its courtyards.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever.

It will last for all time to come."



LESSON 23 | Peace

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:20–25; Mark 4:35–41

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6–7: “Don’t worry about anything . . . God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.”

Key Question: Where do I find strength to battle worry and fear?

Key Idea: I am not worried because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Resources:

- Video 23, “Peace”
- *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 23, “Peace”

Master Supplies List

- Believe Kids’ Edition*
- Video 23, “Peace”
- DVD player
- Pictures of peaceful places
- Family Page (one per student)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Small, empty plastic drink bottles with lids, labels removed (one per student); blue food coloring; water; vegetable oil; superglue (optional); funnel (optional)
- OPTION 2:** Paper and masking tape, or sponge balls
- OPTION 3:** Whiteboard or flipchart with easel, dry-erase or regular markers
- OPTION 5:** Ready to Fly script (two copies)

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Pictures of peaceful places (found on the Internet or in magazines)

Teacher Prep: Before class, gather a selection of pictures of peaceful places.

- GATHER the students.
- ASK the students to close their eyes and imagine the most peaceful place they can ever remember being—perhaps by the ocean or on a quiet lake.
- SAY, Imagining a peaceful place like this can help you when you are feeling worried or afraid.
- SHOW pictures of peaceful places, and share a story of a time or place in which you felt peaceful.
- SAY, Today we are going to talk about God’s peace. Can you think of a time when you feel peaceful? (Sleeping, hanging out at home, hanging out at school, etc.)
- EXPLAIN, Peace is that calm and happy feeling you have when you know you are safe. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace, and he wants to give us his peace when we feel worried or afraid.
- ASK, Do you ever feel worried or afraid? I know I do. (Tell about a time when you were worried or afraid)
- ASK, Would one or two of you like to tell everyone about a time when you felt worried or afraid? (Take responses)
- SAY, Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he wants us to feel safe even when there are things in our lives that make us feel afraid or worried. There are a lot of reasons to feel worried and afraid in this world, but the Bible says that when we ask him, God will give us his peace, a peace that is beyond our wildest imagination.
- SAY, One of the ways we can feel peaceful whenever we are worried or afraid is to pray. Praying is simply talking to and listening to God. Spending time praying each day can help you feel less worried or afraid of things that bother you.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week’s Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week’s Key Verse together.

Philippians 4:6–7: “Don’t worry about anything ... God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.”

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: Video 23, “Peace”; DVD player; *Believe Kids’ Edition*

Teacher Prep: Have the video set and ready to play.

WATCH VIDEO 23 / READ CHAPTER 23

- WATCH video 23, “Peace,” included with this curriculum.
- READ “Peace with Others” (Genesis 13:5-8) from *Believe Kids’ Edition*.

REVIEW ABRAM AND LOT

- ASK, What was causing Abram and Lot to argue with each other? (They had too many flocks and servants to be able to share the land) Have you had similar arguments with your siblings or friends? (Take responses about how problems with sharing causes arguments)
- ASK, What did Abram do to restore peace between he and his nephew, Lot? (He suggested they separate, and he gave Lot the first pick of the land)
- ASK, Why do you think Abram let Lot choose first, even though Abram was older? (Abram was putting Lot first, and trusting in God to take care of him)
- ASK, How did God reward Abram for putting others first? (He promised to give all the land to him and his descendents)
- ASK, What can you learn from Abram’s example for the next time you find yourself having an argument with someone? (Put the other person first; trust God to take care of your needs; treat the relationship as more important than your rights; e.g. Abraham said, “After all, we’re part of the same family,” then he gave up his right to first pick)

REVIEW JESUS CALMS THE STORM

- ASK, What happened to Jesus and his disciples when they were on the lake? (A terrible storm hit)
- ASK, What was Jesus doing during the storm? (He was sleeping)
- ASK, What did Jesus do about the storm? (He only had to speak to the storm in order to bring peace)
- ASK, What did Jesus indicate was the cause of the disciples’ fear? (They had no faith)
- PRAY, Father God, please help us to know and experience your peace when we are worried or afraid. Increase our faith. Thank you that everything in our lives is under your control. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Calm Seas Ocean in a Bottle (15 min)

Supplies: Small, empty plastic drink bottles with lids, labels removed (one per student); blue food coloring; water; vegetable oil; superglue (optional); funnel (optional)

Teacher Prep: Before class, collect several empty plastic drinking bottles and remove the labels.

- **SAY**, In the story today, Jesus was able to calm the storm on the sea by simply speaking words of peace to the wind and the waters.
- **CONTINUE**, In our own lives we will often encounter storms. Perhaps these storms are not filled with wind and rain; but when our hearts and minds are troubled, it's similar to being in a storm.
- **CONTINUE**, We must never forget that in the same way that Jesus could speak to the storm, he can also speak words of peace to our hearts and calm the storms inside of us.
- **SAY**, The craft we are making today will remind us of how Jesus calmed the storm.
- **PASS** out the plastic drink bottles and have the students fill the bottles three-fourths of the way with water.
- **ADD** one drop of blue food coloring to each student's bottle.
- **ASSIST** or allow students to fill the remainder of the bottle with vegetable oil. If you think this step will be too messy, use a funnel.
- **USE** a drop of superglue on the inside of each lid to ensure that the lids are tightened permanently.
- **WATCH** as the oil and blue water separate. Turn the bottle sideways; then, with a gentle rolling motion, move the bottle to create waves rolling from one side to the other. When the bottle is still, watch how the waves are calmed. This can remind you of how Jesus calmed the storm in the story.

Option 2: Peace with God Game (15 min)

Supplies: Paper and masking tape, or sponge balls

Teacher Prep: Before class, create several lightweight balls of crumpled paper and masking tape (or use sponge balls).

- SAY, In order to feel the peace of God in our lives, it is important to be in a close relationship with him. Some ways we do that are by praying, reading our Bibles, and listening to God when he speaks to us.
- CONTINUE, When we do not do these things, it is as if we are moving farther and farther away from God. We are going to play a game to illustrate this.
- DIVIDE the students into two rows. Place the rows a foot apart and have students in opposite rows face each other. Give each student in one row a lightweight paper ball or a sponge ball.
- SAY, This ball represents the peace of God. Pass the ball to the student facing you.
- CONTINUE, See how easy it is to receive the peace of God when you are close?
- INSTRUCT the students to take one step back and then continue to try to pass or toss the ball to one another.
- CONTINUE the game until the lightweight balls will no longer reach across to the students.
- SAY, If we get too far away from God, his peace cannot reach us at all. If we stay close to God, his peace will always reach us. Let's remember that.

Option 3: Verse Application Drawing Game (10 min)

Supplies: Whiteboard or flipchart with easel, dry-erase or regular markers

- SAY, Our relationship with God can become closer when we memorize verses from the Bible. God's Word can remind us of his character and his promises. However, even better than simply memorizing the verses, we can learn how to apply those verses in our daily lives.
- REVIEW the Key Verse several times with the students.
Philippians 4:6–7: "Don't worry about anything ... God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds."
- CALL students up, one at a time or in pairs. Ask them to recite the verse and then allow them to think of a way the verse could be used in real life. Have them attempt to draw the scenario on the board while the other students try to guess how the verse is being used in the drawing.
- CONTINUE the game until all students have had a turn.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“Prince of Peace” by Twila Paris

© 1985 by Ariose Music (admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

Mountain Spring Music

CCLI #19856

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” by Jeffery Rickard

Public domain

CCLI #2154963

Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

Ready to Fly

Teacher Prep: Assign two students to act out the following skit. Print and photocopy two copies of the Ready to Fly script. Find costumes to make the “actors” feel more in character as they deliver their lines.

Characters

Sara Beth

Jake

Props: Costumes

Sara Beth: Did you get your passport for the missions trip yet?

Jake: No. (*looks away*)

Sara Beth: Why not? You’re going to run out of time if you don’t do it soon.

Jake: Yeah, I’ve been thinking about the missions trip a lot. I don’t think I’m going to go.

Sara Beth: You’ve got to be kidding me! You raised more money than anybody for the trip!

Jake: I know, and the money will still help you guys.

Sara Beth: Okay, so what’s really going on? I don’t know anyone who has been more excited to go than you. I’m surprised you’re backing out of the trip.

Jake: I don’t want to talk about it. It’s stupid and embarrassing.

Sara Beth: Come on. I’m your friend. You can tell me anything.

Jake: Okay, okay. (*pause*) I’m scared.

Sara Beth: Of what?

Jake: Flying! I’ve never been on a plane before.

Sara Beth: (*in a surprised tone*) Really? That’s it?

Jake: Yes! And the more I think about it, the more scared and worried I get.

Sara Beth: Well, then you need the royal treatment!

Jake: Huh?

Sara Beth: You need to talk to the Prince of Peace! Jesus doesn't want fear to keep you from living your life.

Jake: You really think praying will help?

Sara Beth: Absolutely!

Jake: How?

Sara Beth: Well, God's Word is called the sword of the Spirit. (*wielding a pretend sword*) It slices right through our fears and worries and destroys them!

Jake: Let's try it now. But you do it. I don't really know how to pray ...

SARA BETH and JAKE *huddle up to pray.*

Sara Beth: Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace. You are stronger than any battle we face here on earth. I pray that you will comfort my friend Jake. I pray that you will wrap your strong and loving arms around him right now and squeeze all that fear right out of him. Give him a brave and fearless spirit through your power and might! Amen.

Jake: (*letting out a deep breath*) Amen! I agree with everything you just prayed!

Sara Beth: If you want, I can pray with you through the whole flight!

Jake: Thanks. I'll take you up on that royal treatment. I bet it will work!

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per student).

- GIVE each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about the peace of God.
- HAVE students practice telling the story of when Jesus calmed the storm.
- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 23: Peace

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:20–25; Mark 4:35–41

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6–7: “Don’t worry about anything . . . God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.”

Key Question: Where do I find strength to battle worry and fear?

Key Idea: I am not worried because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Resource: *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 23, “Peace”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe Kids’ Edition* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is peace? (Peace is offered by Jesus to those who believe in him; it helps us be calm and to trust in him despite what we are scared of or worried about)
2. Does our home feel like a peaceful place? What about school, church, or other places you go regularly? If not, how could you ask Jesus to bring peace into those places?
3. When do you have the most peace?
4. How can you explain the peace of Christ to someone who doesn’t know God? Do you think someone who doesn’t know the Prince of Peace can ever find true peace?

Living Faith

Option 1

In the story of Jesus calming the storm, he said, “Peace, be still!” Set aside a time where you and your child can “be still” together for ten or fifteen minutes. Play some calm worship or instrumental music and get rid of

distractions such as electronics, other people, and daily activities. You may choose to begin your “peace time” with a quiet prayer, then sit together and pray silently or simply meditate on the peace of Jesus. After your chosen length of time, end with another quiet prayer together and discuss whether you feel more peaceful. You may choose to make this “peace time” a part of your daily schedule this week.

Option 2

Help your child develop a sense of peace by creating a list of things the two of you can do together when your child is worried or afraid. Your list can include things such as praying together, reading from the book of Psalms, giving a hug, going for a walk, singing praise songs, etc. Post this list where your child has easy access to it. A good place to post this list would be by your child’s bed so it is the first thing your child sees in the morning and the last thing he or she sees at night.

Extra Mile

- Some children have specific issues that bring them a lot of fear or anxiety, such as being afraid of the dark, dogs, or making new friends. Pinpointing these issues and helping your child address them is important for their spiritual growth. With your child, come up with specific ways to look for God’s peace when feeling afraid. Some ideas include praying to God (listening to and talking to God), reading a favorite verse or story in the Bible, memorizing and reciting the Key Verse about peace, drawing a picture or doing other art, going outside into nature, etc.
- With your child, use the Internet or some magazines to find images that make your child feel peaceful. Print them or cut them out and display them in your child’s room or on the refrigerator. Looking at those peaceful images throughout the week will be a visual reminder to you and your child of God’s peace.
- Many families experience certain times of the week that are less peaceful at home, such as mornings when everyone is rushing about before school or work. Have a family meeting to discuss these chaotic times and to create a “family peacefulness plan,” which can help everyone remain peaceful during those stressful periods. Be sure to include your child in the planning. Listen to your child’s ideas and validate them by including them in the plan.
- During family prayer time this week, remind your child that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Help your child bring any fears and worries to Jesus. Spend time with your child picturing Jesus taking away those things and bringing peace in their place.

Ready to Fly Script

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