

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: Having it good as a kid means you're joyful and free

Key Question: What is the truth that sets us free?

Memory Verse: *And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. John 8:32*

Overview: We've started a new series today called Drive. We're learning what it means to pursue God with all our hearts and the benefits that come from a relationship with Him. Just like the title implies, we should always be moving forward in our relationship with God. We should pursue relationship with Him like we do our friends. We should spend time with Him by reading our Bibles and praying. It's the only way to get to know what He's like and what He wants us to be like.

Today, we're focusing on the idea that following Jesus means we'll have a good life. Now, let's be clear. What Jesus means by a good life and what you are picturing might be very different. You might think the good life means never having homework, eating dessert for breakfast and playing video games all day. That's not what Jesus means. Jesus' view of the good life is that we are joyful and free. Joy is just another word for true happiness. Even on bad days, we can be happy knowing that Jesus loves us, protects us and is waiting for us in heaven. And, He gave us the Bible to protect us. Like a big fence, the Bible gives us the rules we should live by so we don't wander into danger. We can be free to live within the boundaries He set for us through His word. Pursue God, everyday, so you can enjoy the "good" life.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** Describe your "best day ever". Where would you be, what would you do, who would you be with?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Hebrews 12:2-3](#). Jesus endured much suffering for us on the cross. Why do you think He found joy in that suffering? What can His attitude teach us?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - How can you find joy in the harder things in your life?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: Get kids thinking about what makes them happy. Even though doing those fun things are great, they aren't enough in the end. Following God is the only true source of happiness.

Answer: The truth is that Jesus is God and He came to die for our sins so that we could be free to live for Him.

Because of what Jesus did, we don't have to pay the price for our own sins because Jesus paid it for us on the cross. We can live a joyful life that honors God, knowing how much He loves us, and look forward to living in heaven some day.

Bonus Questions: What is sin? (*going our own way instead of God's way*) Why do you think Jesus chose to die for us?

4-5th: Would you give up your life for someone else? Explain. How can you honor God with your life?

This is a powerful passage in scripture. Jesus knew the suffering He was to endure long before it happened. Yet, He still chose to do it because of His love for us. He understood that the joy was not in the act of suffering but that the result of His suffering meant life for us. He did it to pay for our sins. We can have a similar "joy" in the harder times in our own lives if we remember that God loves us, He will protect us, and He will use our suffering to make us stronger..

Allow each kid that wants to share something they're worried or stressed about with the class. Help them to identify the joy they can find even in that hard situation.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities **K-1st**

Option #1

Memory Verse Relay

- Divide class into two teams.
- Tape two lines at one end of the room and place two buckets at the other end filled with strips of paper with words of verse (**pg 5**) on them.
- Have the first person in line do 3 jumping jacks then run to the bucket and pull out a strip of paper and place on the floor next to the bucket.
- Then have them run back and slap the hand of the next person in line.
- Continue until all the strips are removed.
- Have kids race to get their words in order to say the memory verse.

Supplies needed

- tape
- 2 buckets
- memory verse words (pg 5) cut into strips, 2 sets

Bonus Activity:

Play the **Bible Hangman**

words:

truth

freedom

joyful

Option #2

Be Joyful Bubble Letters

- Give each kid a joy template (**pg 6**), precut.
- Have kids color their joy letters.
- As they color, explain what each phrase means on the inside of each letter and come up with an example for each one:
 - **J**esus should always be first in our lives. He is the source of true happiness (before going out to playing, read your Bible).
 - **O**thers second means after Jesus, we should put our friends and family next (play the game your friend wants to play even though you don't like it).
 - **Y**ourself last means you worry about your own needs after thinking about Jesus and others first (allow your friends to go before you to get food even if it means you get less).

Supplies needed

- white card stock
- joy template
- (pg 6), precut
- crayons
- stickers

Bonus Activity:

Play the **Telephone Game**.

Have kids sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** into one kid's ear. Have them whisper what they hear to the kid to their right. Continue around the circle. Have the last person say aloud the message they heard.

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. We have it "good" when we have _____.
2. We have it "good" when we have _____.
3. We have it "good" when we have _____.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. Describe your "best day ever". Where would you be, what would you do, who would you be with?
2. Describe what joy can look like in your life. Why does God care if we have joy?
3. What does a person act like without joy? Why doesn't God want us to be that way?
4. What does freedom mean? Why is freedom important?
5. Why is knowing Jesus so important? How does He help us?
6. Read [Hebrews 12:2-3](#). Jesus endured much suffering for us on the cross. Why do you think He found joy in that suffering? What can His attitude teach us?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

"And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week

- Read [Psalm 100:2](#). How can you come before the Lord with joy?
- Read [Psalm 118:24](#). When you have a bad day, what can you do to still find joy?
- Read [Jeremiah 29:11](#). Why should this verse give you hope and joy?

Parent Signature_____



ACTIVITY PAGE #1

K-1st Grade

Kids

BIG IDEA

Having it good as a kid
means you are
joyful and free

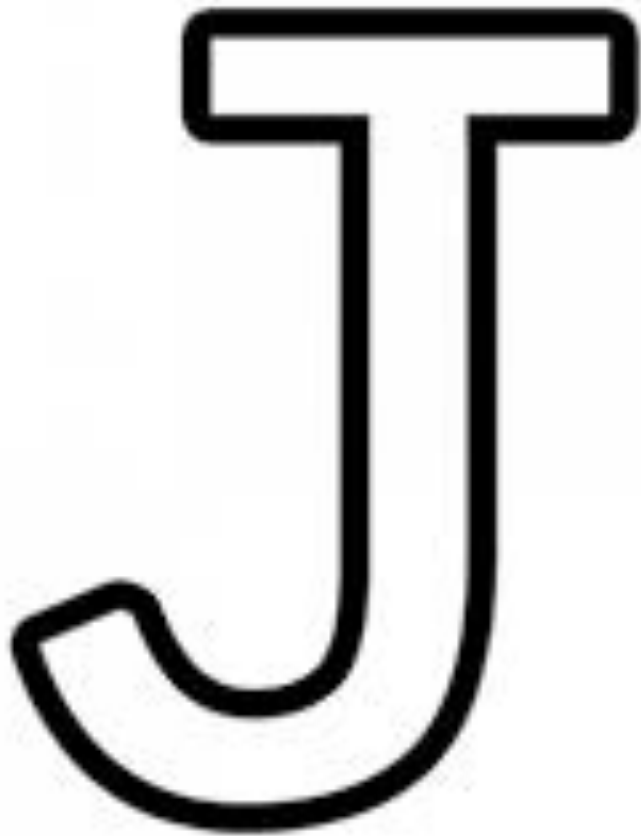
KEY QUESTION

What is the truth
that sets us free?

MEMORY VERSE

"And you will know the
truth and the truth will set
you free."
John 8:32

Color and draw things that make you happy



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