

Kid's Slot –Sept 3-9

“Your Joy Will Overflow”

OVERVIEW: Your Joy Will Overflow • When we remain connected with Jesus and obey Him, we will have joy!

PREPARATION: Pieces of Paper, Markers or Crayons

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: John 15:11

ICEBREAKER:

- What are some things that make you happy?
- What would your perfect day look like?

READ: “Your Joy Will Overflow”

MEMORY VERSE: “I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” **John 15:11**

LIFE APPLICATION:

- What do we need to do in order to be filled with joy?
- What times in your life do you need the joy of Jesus?
- How can you continue to connect with God this week and experience Jesus' joy?
- Is there anyone in your life that needs the joy of Jesus? How can you tell them about Jesus' joy this week?

“Your Joy Will Overflow”

Welcome to life group today! Today is the 3rd week of our Flourish theme. Flourish means to grow strong and big. We are learning to grow strong with God. How have you been Flourishing in your life this week?

So far in Flourish, we have talked about staying connected with Jesus and obeying His commands. Does anyone have a time that you obeyed Jesus' commands last week? *Allow the kids to talk about ways that they obeyed Jesus' commands last week. You may need to review the different ways that we can obey Jesus' commands.*

One way we are staying connected and obeying Jesus is by learning a memory verse each week. So far during Flourish, we have learned two memory verses: John 15:5 and John 15:14. Does anyone remember those Bible verses? *Have the kids spend some time reciting John 15:5, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.” and John 15:14 “You are my friends if you do what I command.” Allow the kids to practice the verses using funny voices to keep them engaged.*

Staying connected with Jesus and obeying Jesus are great commands and today we are going to learn about the promise that Jesus gives to us when we follow those commands. Read John 15:11, “I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”

Jesus says that when we stay connected with Him and obey Him, we receive an amazing gift—the gift of JOY! Joy can make us content and happy even when things are not always going our way.

What are some things that make you happy? Happiness is a feeling that is based on good things happening in your life...like when you get a new puppy, when your teacher says there is no homework tonight, or when you have your favorite meal for dinner and there are NO vegetables on your plate!

Joy is different than happiness. It is not based on the good things in your life; it is based on knowing that God is good all the time. God's promise to give us joy doesn't mean that only good things will happen. Your mom may say no to getting a new puppy; your teacher will probably continue to give you homework; vegetables are a part of a healthy diet, so you will still have to eat them.

God's promise to give us joy means that He will be with us even when things don't go our way. You cannot choose the circumstances, what happens, in your life, but you can choose to trust in God and receive His joy. When we know God and trust in Him, our joy and peace comes from that relationship with Him.

John 15:11 says, "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" The first part of this verse says, "I have told you these things." Do you remember from last week what Jesus told us to do? Obey His commands. If we want joy in our lives, we have to obey His commands and stay connected with Him.

Joy Skits

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Have the kids work together to create skits. Have them brainstorm a situation that might not make them happy, but where they could still have the Joy of the Lord.

What You Say:

"There are going to be times in our lives where things don't go our way, but if we stay connected with Jesus and obey Him, we can have joy!"

Joy Looks Like...

What You Need: Pieces of Paper, Markers or Crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child paper and some markers or crayons.
- Have each child draw a picture of what joy looks like.
- Older children may want to draw different joyful emojis.
- Have them write the memory verse on the bottom of the page.

What You Say:

"This picture can remind us to have joy this week. Our memory verse this week reminds us that our Joy will overflow. Throughout the week, practice your memory verse at home."

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it's free!

