

GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE

Psalm 16:11; Romans 5:1-2; 14:17; 15:13; 1 Peter 1:8-9

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:11

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is the giver of every good and joyful gift.
- True joy is only found in God.
- Joy in the Lord produces joyful obedience.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 13:44-46; JOHN 15:11

The world offers us many things that seem to bring joy, but nothing brings true joy like what God offers us through His Son, Jesus. This truth is revealed in the story of the man finding a priceless treasure in a field and selling everything he has to buy the field and the merchant discovering a priceless pearl and giving everything he has to keep the pearl. God’s kingdom is our priceless treasure. It is worth everything we have.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

God Himself is joy. Joy is not just an attribute of God. All joy is found in Him. Psalm 16:11 says, “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” We were created to delight and find joy in God. There is always more about God to know, see, experience, and love than we could ever imagine. Sin separated us from God and also from the joy that comes from knowing Him. In the midst of that, God gives us faith to restore our relationship with Him and to know Him again. Not only is God the truest source of joy, but He gives us faith so we can have access to that joy.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- Joy is found in the presence of God
- Faith is a gift from God to hope and trust in Him



Every child should feel:

- The difference between a temporary happiness and a lasting joy



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize John 3:16
- Recognize things that make them happy, but talk about God as the source of joy



Every child should want to:

- To one day have faith in Jesus to save them from their sins
- To experience true joy in Christ alone

FAMILY DEVOTION: OUR TRUE TREASURE

Jesus shares a parable, or story, about the kingdom of heaven. A man finds a treasure in a field and sells everything he has to buy the field. Another man finds a priceless pearl and sells all he has to buy the pearl. The kingdom of God is our greatest treasure. It is our true treasure.

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:11

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.”

Jesus Joyfully Obeyed His Father.

- Jesus came to the earth because His Father sent Him.
- While He was on earth, He had an earthly ministry.
- This ministry was not always easy or even pleasant.
- There were many people who wanted to kill Jesus because what He taught offended them.
- Jesus still followed His Father and obeyed Him.
- Jesus found joy in obeying His Father because He has a perfect love for His Father.
- Jesus even obeyed His Father by going to the cross and paying the price for man’s sin.

We Receive Jesus’ Joy When We Have Saving Faith, Or We Repent And Believe.

- Jesus came to the earth to pay our sin debt. He did so joyfully and willingly.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we are washed clean of our sin.
- We receive Jesus’ joy when we have saving faith because God’s Spirit comes to live inside of us.
- Any joy we had before Jesus is not true, lasting joy.
- The joy we have in Jesus is true joy and it lasts forever, no matter our circumstances.

We Can Joyfully Obey Our Heavenly Father.

- When we know Jesus, we can have true joy that is everlasting.
- We can obey God, our Heavenly Father because we can trust God to do what is best for us.
- This joy is not like the joy of the world that does not last.
- The joy we have from Jesus is everlasting and it is present even in the worst of circumstances because it comes from God.

GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 13:44-6; JOHN 15:11

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl

Supporting Scripture: James 1:17; 1 Peter 1:8-9; 1 John 5:3

Teacher Introduction:

Jesus taught many things when He was on earth. He taught the crowds gathered to listen to Him and sometimes His own disciples by telling parables, or stories that teach a lesson. Jesus sat by the seaside one day and a great crowd gathered to hear Him. He shared with this crowd the importance of the kingdom of God and what a great treasure it really is. Once there was a man who found treasure hidden in a field. The man covered it up and then sold everything he had to buy the field with the treasure in it. The man did this joyfully because he valued the treasure above everything else. Another man, a merchant was searching for fine pearls. One day, he found a pearl of great value. He, too, sold all that he had so he could buy the pearl and he did so joyfully. The kingdom of Heaven is like the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value. It is worth all that we have to possess it and we will give all that we have joyfully to be a part of it. Knowing Jesus brings true joy that cannot be gained from anything else. God alone is our source of joy and faith. He is our great treasure and pearl of great value.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Matthew 13:44-46; John 15:11 and teach the truth that God is our source of true joy. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth that God is our source of true joy.

Opening Illustration:

Decorate a shoebox to look like a treasure box. Before class hide the box in the classroom. When the children come in, tell them that you are going on a treasure hunt. Help them hunt for the treasure box. When they find it, allow them to open it and find a Bible inside. Talk with them about how God is our greatest treasure and He gives us true joy.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS THE GIVER OF EVERY GOOD AND JOYFUL GIFT.¹**All that God does is good.**

- God is eternal and unchanging.
- He is always perfect and good.
- God never sins or does wrong.
- Everything that God does is perfect and for our good.
- All that God does is for His glory.
- God is wiser than any other being and He knows what is best for every person.
- God only does good. He is perfect and never does evil or wicked things.



Before class, place a small treat or prize in enough small boxes for every child to have one. Wrap the boxes in wrapping paper. Give each child a box and ask him to open it. Share with the children that God is the giver of every good and joyful gift.

God delights in giving His children good things.

- God is a good Father.
- He delights in giving His children good gifts.
- He gives to His children joyfully.
- God joyfully gave the greatest gift when He gave Jesus.
- God's joy is also a gift to His children.

Every good thing is from God.

- God is the Creator of all things.
- Even the things that man invents are made possible by God's creation of ideas and intellect.
- Everything good we have is from God. He allows us to succeed in life.
- He allows us to have families and friends.
- He gives us Himself, the greatest gift of all.

From whom do we receive good gifts? (We receive good gifts from God.)

Do we receive good gifts from some other source? (No, God gives every good and perfect gift.)

1. James 1:17: Every good thing we have comes from God who does not change.

BIG IDEA: TRUE JOY IS ONLY FOUND IN GOD.²**Saving faith in Jesus causes us to love God.**

- When we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus, we are washed clean of our sin.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God by our sin.
- We are reconciled to God through Jesus and this reconciliation produces a love for God that we didn't have before.
- When we love God, we have great joy.



Sing "I've Got The Joy" with the children. Remind them that true joy is found in God.

Our love for God produces joy.

- We love God when He reconciles us to Himself.
- We understand how much God loves us and sacrificed for us and this produces a great love for God inside of us.
- We love God because we understand what He has done for us.
- He has made a way for our sin debt to be paid. He has offered us salvation.
- When we have this salvation, we have a great love for God.
- This love we have for God produces great joy in our hearts.
- We are overwhelmed by the love God has for us and our own love for Him.

Our salvation through Christ produces joy in us.

- True joy is from God.
- We can only have true joy when we know God.
- We can only know God through saving faith in Jesus.
- When we have saving faith in Jesus, we have salvation of our sin.
- This salvation produces great joy in us because we have the knowledge that our sin debt is paid.
- We no longer have to suffer God's wrath for our sin when we know Jesus.
- This knowledge brings true and eternal joy in us.

Where do we find true joy? (We find true joy in God through Jesus, His Son.)

2. 1 Peter 1:8-9: When we have faith in Jesus, we understand that we have salvation through Him. This knowledge produces inexpressible joy in us.

BIG IDEA: JOY IN THE LORD PRODUCES JOYFUL OBEDIENCE.³**Love for God leads us to obey Him.**

- When we love God, we obey Him.
- We do not find His commands hard or difficult.
- We do not consider it too much to follow His Word.
- The man who discovered the hidden treasure did not consider it too great a price to sell everything he had to buy the field.
- When we love God, we obey Him because we want to please Him.



Play a game of Follow the Leader. As the children are playing, remind them that when we have God's joy, we joyfully obey Him.

Obedience to God is not hard because we love Him.

- It is not hard to do the things we love or to help the people we love.
- When we love someone, we do not find it burdensome to help them.
- When we love God, we do not find His commands hard or difficult.
- We love Him and want to please Him.
- Just like the merchant didn't find the price of the valuable pearl too great to pay, we do not find God's commands too hard when we love Him.

God's joy in us causes us to joyfully obey.

- When we know God and are reconciled to Him, we begin to become like Him.
- The joy we have is from God because every good thing we have is from God.
- God's joy inside of us causes us to want to obey Him.
- We are overcome by the knowledge that God gave His Son for us and this produces joyful obedience in us.

What does God's joy produce in us? (It produces joyful obedience.)

3. 1 John 5:3: When we love God, we want to obey Him. We find joy in obeying Him.

HOOKS



KNOW

Where's the Treasure?

Bring in a box, packing peanuts (or some other type of packing material), several items that can be hidden, such as small rubber balls, pencils, etc. Hide the items in the box. Help the children work together to find the hidden objects in the box of packing peanuts. Once the items are found, lead the children in a discussion about how God is our true treasure. Every good gift comes from Him.



DO

- We know God is our true treasure.
- When we know God, it means we have our sins forgiven.
- God loves us and every good thing we have, He has given us.



FEEL

Priceless Pearl Relay

Bring in two empty containers, a bag of cotton balls, and two plastic spoons. Divide the children into two groups. Give each group a plastic spoon and a cotton ball. Ask the children to race each other, holding the cotton ball on the spoon, to the empty container. They should dump their cotton ball into the container, race back to their group and hand the spoon off. Place a cotton ball on the spoon for the next child and repeat the relay. Once every child has a chance to place a cotton ball into the container, lead the children in a discussion about how the merchant sold everything he had to buy the pearl. The pearl brought him joy like God brings us joy.



WANT

- The merchant bought the pearl because it brought him joy.
- The pearl is like the kingdom of God---it is of great value.
- When we know God, we have great joy.
- We can only have true joy from knowing God.