

# LESSON 10: GOD DELIGHTS IN HIS PEOPLE

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 Zephaniah 3:16-17; Luke 15:8-10; Psalm 18:19; Psalm 37:23; Psalm 149:3-5

12/15/2019

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Zephaniah 3:16-17; Luke 15:8-10; Psalm 18:19; Psalm 37:23; Psalm 149:3-5
- In This Passage: These verses demonstrate that God is joyful...and what brings him the most joy is us! God rejoices over us and delights in us, and he is thrilled when someone turns to him. We can make music and sing for joy in response.
- Bible Point: God is joyful...
- Application: ...so we're joyful.
- Summary Verse: "Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy" (Psalm 100:2).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is joyful*. Joy can be a hard concept for kids. Does being joyful mean it's wrong to feel sad? What about when life gets really hard? Use this lesson to help kids see that unlike happiness, joy is rooted in the unchanging truth that God loves us and wants a relationship with us. No matter what else happens, we can have joy in that!
- Think About: What brings you the most joy? How do you feel knowing that's how God feels about *you*?

### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that kids would sense God rejoicing over them and feel his joy flowing through them.

### Quick Tip

- Set a tone of joy from the moment kids arrive. Greet kids with high-fives and fist bumps. Say their names enthusiastically to show you're joyful they've arrived. Be excited about the activities you're doing today, and share stories of how God brought you joy this week. As kids see your joy, it'll be contagious!

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids visit stations to learn about joy.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- coins
- blankets and pillows
- markers
- praise music
- music player
- tambourines or other instruments

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't already have 4 leaders in addition to yourself, recruit them to join you for this lesson block. If you're short on leaders, you can have as few as 1 in addition to yourself and divvy up the stations to oversee.
- Set up the following stations:
  - Song Writing: Bookmark Zephaniah 3:16-17 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Set the Bible, pencils, paper, and some instruments in a corner of the room.
  - Lost & Found: Hide coins all around the room. Count how many you hide. Bookmark Luke 15:8-10 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark.
  - Spacious Places: Set out blankets and pillows in one corner of the room. Bookmark Psalm 18:19 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Put the Bible, paper, and markers near the pillows.
  - Lead Me: Place pieces of paper all over the room. These will be obstacles for kids to avoid. Bookmark Psalm 37:23 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark.
  - Song & Dance: Bookmark Psalm 149:3-5 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Set a Bible, a music player with praise music, and some instruments in a third corner of the room.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to track a moving coin under cups.

#### Supplies

- coin
- 3 plastic cups that aren't clear
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



### CRAFT

Kids make microphones.

## Supplies

- 8½x11-inch sheets of black card stock (1 for every 2 kids)
- white crayons
- sheets of aluminum foil (1 per child)
- sheets of scrap paper (1 per child)
- silver duct tape
- stapler
- tape
- whiteboard or sheet of paper
- dry-erase marker or regular marker
- favorite upbeat class song
- music player

## Easy Prep

- Cut the sheets of black card stock in half so each child will have a section that's approximately 4x5½ inches.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids measure how far they can jump.

### Supplies

- colorful plastic straws (5 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids smile, jump, and high-five while praying.



## OBJECT LESSON

Kids use poppers to send pompoms into the air.

### Supplies

- sturdy paper cups (1 for every 5 kids)
- balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- pompoms
- rubber bands (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Cut out the bottom of the cup.
- Cut off the top of an uninflated balloon and tie off the bottom.
- Stretch the balloon over the bottom of the cup to make a popper. Secure with a rubber band if needed.

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

**Supplies**

- Bible

**Welcome**

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids double high-five four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say, “Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It’s your birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

**Introduce the Lesson**

Say: **Today we’ll find out that God is joyful and we can be joyful, too. When we’re joyful, we feel full of God’s love. We might want to dance or sing or jump around because we feel so much love inside. And God is joyful, too, because he has so much love for us! Let’s talk about songs we like to listen to that make us feel joyful.**

**Share**

- Share a song that makes *you* feel happy. Your example might be a worship song, or it might just be a song that makes you feel good to be alive.
- In small groups, have kids share songs that make *them* feel happy. Kids might share about fun songs you sing in your class, songs on popular movies, or songs they listen to with their families. Help kids by giving them more examples, if needed.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

**Summarize**

Open a Bible, and say: **Music can make us want to dance, run, and sing. It can make us happy, but God can give us something even better than happiness—joy. Joy is even bigger and better because joy means we’re full of love. God is joyful about being friends with us, and it’s a joy to be friends with God, too. God gives us so much love and care, and that’s something to be joyful about!**

Pray, thanking God that he’s joyful and he brings us joy.



## Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- coins
- blankets and pillows
- markers
- praise music
- music player
- tambourines or other instruments

## Easy Prep

- If you don't already have 4 leaders in addition to yourself, recruit them to join you for this lesson block. If you're short on leaders, you can have as few as 1 in addition to yourself and divvy up the stations to oversee.
- Set up the following stations:
  - Song Writing: Bookmark Zephaniah 3:16-17 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Set the Bible, pencils, paper, and some instruments in a corner of the room.
  - Lost & Found: Hide coins all around the room. Count how many you hide. Bookmark Luke 15:8-10 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark.
  - Spacious Places: Set out blankets and pillows in one corner of the room. Bookmark Psalm 18:19 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Put the Bible, paper, and markers near the pillows.
  - Lead Me: Place pieces of paper all over the room. These will be obstacles for kids to avoid. Bookmark Psalm 37:23 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark.
  - Song & Dance: Bookmark Psalm 149:3-5 in a Bible, and write the reference on the bookmark. Set a Bible, a music player with praise music, and some instruments in a third corner of the room.

## Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson for the Song & Dance station. You can find the album [here](#).

## Talk About It

Say: **Today we're learning that God is joyful. Let's talk about joy.**

Ask: • **What brings you joy?** Share your own example first.

• **What do you think brings God joy?**

Say: **It might surprise you to know this, but when the Bible talks about what brings God joy...it's us!**

## Pass It On

Say: **Since we're talking about joy, let's see if we can pass on joy and laughter!**

Have kids sit in a circle. Choose one child to start.

The child who starts will turn to the person next to him or her and say "ha" in a funny voice. The next child will turn to the third person and say "ha ha" in a funny voice. Kids will continue to pass the "ha" around the circle, adding one more each time and trying not to laugh. Eventually, kids will start laughing for real.

Ask: • **Tell about someone or something that makes you laugh.** Share your own example first.

Say: **As we saw in our game, laughter can be contagious. Once one person starts laughing, it's hard not to join in. And God's joy can be contagious, too! God is joyful, so we're joyful. Let's dig in to Scripture and see how his joy about us can make us joyful!**

## Visit Stations

Say: **We have a lot of different verses to explore today, so we're going to split up into five stations. God is joyful, so we're joyful. Each of these stations will be full of joy! You can choose which one you want to go to. At your station, an adult or teen leader will read a bookmarked verse and then you'll do an activity.**

**If you want to go to the Song Writing station, you'll go here (point) and make up joyous, upbeat songs about yourself and other people, from God's point of view. You might pause and listen for a word from God about how he sees you and then make up your song about that. A leader can help you record your song if you want to write it down.**

**If you want to go to the Lost & Found station, a leader will use this Bible (hold up the Bible with Luke 15:8-10 bookmarked) and then you'll look around the room for lost coins. Every time you find one, you'll cheer and jump up and down.**

**If you want to go to the Spacious Places station, you'll sit on the blankets and pillows and draw pictures of happy places God could lead you to.**

**If you want to go to the Lead Me station, a leader will use this Bible (hold up the Bible with Psalm 37:23 marked). Then you'll find a partner (if an uneven number of kids go to this station, you or other leaders can be partners) and take turns leading each other. One of you will close your eyes, and your partner will cheer when you're taking steps in the right direction. The goal will be to get across the room without stepping on a piece of paper.**

**Last, you can choose the Song & Dance station, where you'll have a dance party. You can also sing and play instruments.**

**Once again, those stations are (point as you name them) Song Writing, Lost & Found, Spacious Places, Lead Me, and Song & Dance.**

Have kids choose their stations. Give the marked Bibles to the leaders in charge of the Lost & Found and Lead Me stations, and tell kids in the Lost & Found station how many coins they're trying to find. Have each group start by reading the marked verse in the Bible. Then kids will follow the directions you gave for what to do. It's okay if not all stations are represented.

After kids have been at their stations for about six minutes, have them gather back together and share what they did. First, leaders will read aloud the verses from each station. Then kids can share their experiences. Kids from the Song Writing station can sing their songs, kids from the Lost & Found station can show some of the harder hiding spots where they found coins, kids from the Spacious Places station can show their pictures, and kids from the Lead Me and Song & Dance stations can share joyously about what they did.

Ask: • **How did you experience joy at your station?**

• **How did you see joy when other people shared about their stations, or while they were at their stations?**

• **How do you feel knowing God has joy when he sees you?**

Say: **Some people think God is always angry, judging us for everything we do wrong. It's true that God doesn't like it when we disobey him. But even when we disobey, God still loves us and has joy because of us! God is joyful because we're his children. The best part is, when we realize how much delight God has in us, we can't help but be joyful, too! God is joyful, so we're joyful!**

Lead kids in cheering joyfully.



### Supplies

- coin
- 3 plastic cups that aren't clear
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

### Watch Closely to Track a Moving Coin

Say: **Today we looked for a missing coin, and we heard how a woman in the Bible looked for a missing coin until she found it. The woman had so much joy and celebrated with her neighbors when she found it. Let's play a game where you'll watch carefully to try to find a coin.**

- Sit on the floor, and have the kids form a half-circle facing you.
- Place the coin on the floor, and then place the cups upside down in a line with one of the cups over the coin.
- Tell kids to watch carefully to keep track of the coin as you move the cups.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while you shuffle the cups, and then let kids call out guesses of which cup the coin is under.
- Lead kids in a celebration of cheers and claps when the coin is found.
- Reshuffle and play for as many rounds as time allows.
- When you've finished, be sure to tuck the coin in your pocket or somewhere else where it's safely out of kids' reach.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about looking for the missing coin?**

Say: **When you found the coin, we celebrated with cheers and clapping.** Tell about a way *you've* celebrated something joyful.

Ask: • **What's a joyful thing *you've* celebrated?** Kids may tell about their last birthday party or the birthday party of a friend, or celebrating their first day of preschool.

Say: **God is joyful and loves to see us being joyful, too! When you're celebrating something, you can invite God to celebrate with you.**



## Supplies

- 8½x11-inch sheets of black card stock (1 for every 2 kids)
- white crayons
- sheets of aluminum foil (1 per child)
- sheets of scrap paper (1 per child)
- silver duct tape
- stapler
- tape
- whiteboard or sheet of paper
- dry-erase marker or regular marker
- favorite upbeat class song
- music player

## Easy Prep

- Cut the sheets of black card stock in half so each child will have a section that's approximately 4x5½ inches.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Make Microphones

Say: **God is joyful!** He loves us very much. The Bible says he even sings joyful songs over us. **When we remember how much God loves us, our hearts can be filled with God's joy and happiness, too. And we can sing joyful songs to God to praise him and thank him for his love!** Show kids the sample craft. **Let's each make a microphone to remember that God sings joyful songs over us and that we can sing songs of praise to him.**

- Give each child a section of black card stock.
- Use a whiteboard or sheet of paper to show kids how to draw simple music notes, and then let them draw music notes on their black card stock using the white crayons. (It's okay if their music notes aren't perfect!)
- As each child finishes drawing, help him or her roll the card stock into a tube with the music notes on the outside, and staple the edges together. You can also help add a piece of tape down the middle of the tube if the edges don't lie flat.
- Have each child tightly wad a sheet of scrap paper and then wrap it in a sheet of aluminum foil.
- Have kids hold their aluminum foil balls on one end of the card-stock tubes as you attach them with duct tape to complete the microphones.

### **Karaoke Party**

When kids' crafts are finished, turn on an upbeat song and let kids sing into their microphone crafts.

Say: **God is joyful, and God wants us to be filled with his joy, too!**



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Jump for Joy!

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#### Supplies

- colorful plastic straws (5 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

#### Measure Jumps

Say: **Everything we read in the Bible today shows us that God is joyful. God has joy about us because he loves us. God is joyful when we feel joy, too. Sometimes we even jump for joy! Let's play a game where you'll make *big* jumps for joy and measure your jumps. You can try to make bigger and bigger jumps with more and more joy!**

- Have children line up along a wall with some space between each person.
- Give each child five straws.
- When you say "go," kids will all take a big jump forward and mark where they land with one of their straws.
- Kids will continue to make big jumps and mark their jumps until they're out of straws.
- Have kids look over their straws to see which jump was their biggest and then shout for joy.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids jump and celebrate.
- Allow kids to pick up their straws and start over to see if they can beat their best jump from the first round.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What made you feel happy or joyful in the game?**

Say: **There are a lot of things that can give us joy! Everything that gives us joy is special to us. God is joyful, and we are special to God, too. We can bring God joy, and he can bring us joy!**



**Smile**

Say: **Today we learned that God is joyful and we can be joyful, too. One thing God is joyful about is being with us! Let's give our biggest smiles as we thank God for being with us and bringing us joy.**

Lead the children to smile, and then encourage them to keep their smiles as you lead them in a brief prayer, telling God how joyful it is to be with him. Encourage them to share their own prayers, keeping their smiles.

**Jump for Joy**

Say: **Sometimes when we have joy, we just want to jump and hop and skip! Let's hop for everything we can think of that God gives us that brings us joy.**

Give a couple of examples of good things God gives people.

Ask: • **What's something good God gives you?** Help children if needed. They can name anything God provides, such as sunshine, family, flowers, or water to play in. Encourage children to hop for each thing someone shares.

Say: **When we think of all the ways God takes care of us and shows us his love, it brings me joy! Let's hop while we thank God for taking care of us.** Have kids hop while you lead them in a short prayer, thanking God for taking care of you and the kids. Encourage them to share their own prayers.

**Give High-Fives**

Say: **We can share our joy with others, too. We can tell everyone how loving God is and how wonderful it is to be friends with him. Let's high-five each other to pass on some joy.** Lead kids in giving high-fives to one another, and then have them all hold hands in a circle. Lead them in a brief prayer, asking God for help with sharing his joy with others, and then close the prayer.

Say: **It was a joy to spend time with you today! This week whenever you feel joy, remember that God is joyful and he's the one who brings us joy! I hope you'll come back next week so we can spend some more time together being joyful!**



### Supplies

- sturdy paper cups (1 for every 5 kids)
- balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- pompoms
- rubber bands (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Cut out the bottom of the cup.
- Cut off the top of an uninflated balloon and tie off the bottom.
- Stretch the balloon over the bottom of the cup to make a popper. Secure with a rubber band if needed.



### Show the Popper

Say: **Sometimes when we're happy, we want to jump for joy! Show me how you jump for joy!**

Invite kids to jump in place. **Now let's see if we can make some pompoms jump for joy, too. We'll use this special popper that I've made for us.**

- Show kids a popper. You can take it apart and put it back together so they can see how it's made.
- Place a handful of pompoms inside the cup.
- Pull the balloon tie down as kids count to three.
- On three, let go of the balloon and watch the pompoms fly out of the cup like confetti.
- Invite kids to help you pick up the pompoms and put them back in the cup.

### Make Pompoms Jump

Say: **Now it's your turn to make pompoms jump for joy!**

- Form groups of about five kids, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group.
- Give each group a popper and a handful of pompoms.
- Have kids take turns launching the pompoms while the other group members joyfully gather them and bring them back.
- Give each child several turns to use the popper.

### Talk About It

Say: **Our poppers made our pompoms so joyful that they jumped right out of the cups. Like our joyful pompoms, God is joyful. He loves us so much, and he's happy that he made us. God shares his joy with us so we can live with happy hearts.**

**In our Bible lesson, we talked about things that make us joyful. Let's add a pompom to a popper for each thing we can think of that makes our hearts happy.** Add a pompom for each response.

Say: **Now that our popper is filled with happiness, let's celebrate joy from God one more time.** On the count of three, shout "God is joyful!" and launch the pompoms. Have kids jump for joy as they help pick up the pompoms one more time.

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