

# LESSON 10: GOD DELIGHTS IN HIS PEOPLE

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 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 express joy in a variety of ways as they explore Scripture.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- “Joy Stations” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- paper
- pencils
- coins
- blankets and pillows
- markers
- praise music
- music player
- tambourines or other instruments

#### Easy Prep

- 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.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray while batting balloons around.

#### Supplies

- inflated balloons



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids make springs bounce.

#### Supplies

- inexpensive retractable pens (1 per child)
- masking tape (optional)



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids jump for joy and try to touch tall targets.

## Supplies

- string or ribbon
- scissors
- 5 pushpins or a roll of masking tape
- sticky notes (5 per child)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

## Easy Prep

- Cut the string or ribbon into 5 different lengths you can hang from the ceiling. Vary the lengths so that the challenge of being able to jump up and touch the end of the string gets a little more difficult with each piece.
- Pin or tape the strings to the ceiling in a line getting successively shorter, spacing them about 3 feet apart.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to say tongue twisters without showing their teeth.



## CRAFT

Kids make guitars that double as tambourines.

### Supplies

- “Joyful Noisemaker Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- sturdy paper bowls
- duct tape
- craft sticks (2 per child)
- rubber bands (3 different sizes per child)
- corrugated cardboard
- scissors
- hole punches
- chenille wires
- jingle bells (1-3 per child)
- markers

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*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’re going to learn that God is joyful, so we’re joyful. We’ll even hear how God uses music to show his joy!**

### Share

- Tell kids a song that makes *you* feel joyful.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share songs that make *them* feel joyful.
- After pairs have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

### Summarize

Open a Bible to Zephaniah 3, and say: **Music can bring a lot of joy! And it can be a way we show joy, too. Another way God shows us his joy is through the Bible. He’s ready to rejoice over you right now. Let’s pray and listen.**

Pray, praising God for his joy.



## Supplies

- Bibles
- “Joy Stations” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- paper
- pencils
- coins
- blankets and pillows
- markers
- praise music
- music player
- tambourines or other instruments

## Easy Prep

- 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

Give each child a “Joy Stations” handout so kids can follow along as you review the options.

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, you'll read a bookmarked verse and then do an activity.

If you want to go to the Song Writing station, you'll go here (point) and write 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 write your song about that.

If you want to go to the Lost & Found station, you'll use this Bible (hold up the Bible with Luke 15:8-10 bookmarked) and then 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, you'll 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 kids in 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, they'll read their assigned verses. Then they 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.

If any stations weren't represented, read those verses for kids.

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**

- inflated balloons

### **Pray Joyfully**

Say: **Let's pray in a new way that will show joy! We'll have some fun while we thank God for the things that bring us joy.**

- Have kids bat the balloons around.
- Each time a child hits a balloon, he or she will shout out something that brings joy.

### **Wrap Up**

Pray: **God, thank you that you're joyful and that you've given us so many things that bring joy in our lives. We love being joyful! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



## OBJECT LESSON

### Springs of Joy!

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- inexpensive retractable pens (1 per child)
- masking tape (optional)

#### Tip

- The pens will be as good as new when you reassemble them with the springs, but the springs can be easily lost! Make sure you do this in an open space, away from places the springs could get lost or stuck.

#### Take Pens Apart

Give each child a pen.

Say: **With one click, this pen is ready to write a note, record an answer on a test, or draw a picture, all thanks to a little spring. Let's take these pens apart and experiment with the springs that make them work.**

- Show kids how to twist open the pen and lift the spring off the ink cartridge.
- Have kids twist the pens back together without the springs so as not to accidentally spill ink or lose any parts.

#### Bounce Springs

Say: **Let's see how high these springs can jump.**

- Show kids how to press down on the springs with their fingers and then let go, causing the springs to jump into the air.
- Kids may need to steady the springs with two fingers while pushing them down. Let kids experiment and discover the best way to launch the springs.
- Give challenges to see how high or how far the springs can jump. You can even place a tape line on the floor and see if kids can aim the springs so they bounce over the line.
- Let kids experiment as long as time allows; then have kids put the springs back inside the pens so the pens work again.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **How is the spring inside a pen like joy in our lives?**

• **How does having joy make a difference in our lives?**

Say: **God is joyful. He loves to see us having fun and enjoying the life he has given us. God's happy when we're filled with his joy and living our lives for him.**



### Supplies

- string or ribbon
- scissors
- 5 pushpins or a roll of masking tape
- sticky notes (5 per child)
- masking tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Cut the string or ribbon into 5 different lengths you can hang from the ceiling. Vary the lengths so that the challenge of being able to jump up and touch the end of the string gets a little more difficult with each piece.
- Pin or tape the strings to the ceiling in a line getting successively shorter, spacing them about 3 feet apart.

### 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](#).

### Jump High and Far

Say: **We read from different parts of the Bible today, and they all told us about how God is joyful.**

**Sometimes when we're joyful, we jump for joy. I have some fun jumping challenges for you where you'll jump for joy as high and as far as you can!**

- Form two groups, and have one group take on the high-jump challenge with the strings hanging from the ceiling.
- The high-jumpers can line up at the end of the line of strings with the longest string and take turns trying to jump up and tap the end of each string. Remind kids not to *pull* the strings or the strings might fall down and end the fun.
- Give each person in the other group five sticky notes, and have those kids choose a spot in the room where they can take five long jumps—jumping as far as they can each time. Have each child in this group mark his or her own starting line with tape. With each jump, they'll place one of their sticky notes on the floor where they land and then return to their starting line to try again.
- Give teams a few minutes with the challenges, and then have them switch and play the other challenge for a few minutes. (Kids doing the long jump can use the same starting lines the first group made.)
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

### Talk About It

Ask: • **Why do people jump to show joy?**

• **Tell about a time you jumped for joy. Maybe you won a soccer game that was really hard to win or you found out you were going to have an awesome birthday party.** Share an example of your own, such as when you found out some exciting news.

Say: **God is joyful, so we're joyful. The next time something makes you jump for joy, you can celebrate it with God! Talk to God about your joy, and thank him for the good thing you're celebrating.**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Joyful Tongue Twisters

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#### Pass a Silly Message Without Smiling or Laughing

Say: **Today we read through parts of the Bible that show us God is joyful. God is joyful about us, for us, and with us. Let's play a joyful game to celebrate joy!**

- Join kids and sit in a circle facing each other.
- You'll say a silly message to the person to your right, and he or she will pass the message to the person to his or her right, and so on around the circle until the message gets back to you.
- The catch is, everyone has to say the silly message while keeping lips pulled tightly over teeth so no teeth show. Smiles or laughs will happen, and it's the point of the game, but everyone should be trying to keep a straight face.
- Play a few rounds of passing the messages with these silly phrases:
  - She sells seashells down by the seashore.
  - How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
  - Betty bought a bit of butter, but the butter was bitter.
  - Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?
  - Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he?
  - Unique New York (said three times)

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Which was more fun: trying not to laugh or trying to say the sentence right? Explain.**  
• **What about this game made you joyful?**

Say: **Joy is an awesome gift God gave us. God is joyful, so we can have joy about all the good, fun, exciting, and special things in our lives. When you're joyful, you can remember that your joy comes from God.**



## Supplies

- “Joyful Noisemaker Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- sturdy paper bowls
- duct tape
- craft sticks (2 per child)
- rubber bands (3 different sizes per child)
- corrugated cardboard
- scissors
- hole punches
- chenille wires
- jingle bells (1-3 per child)
- markers

## Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### Tip

- The sturdier the bowl, the less likely it is to collapse under the pressure of the rubber bands.

## Make Instruments

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a sturdy bowl, two craft sticks, three different sizes of rubber bands, and one to three jingle bells. Set out the other supplies to share. Have kids follow the directions on the “Joyful Noisemaker Instructions” handout to make their own instruments.

- Reinforce your bowl by covering the edges with duct tape.
- Cut three slits in the lip of the bowl on one side and then three slits opposite the first three.
- Tape two craft sticks inside the bowl, going the same direction as your slits. This will support the bowl and keep it from collapsing when you add rubber bands.
- Stretch the rubber bands over the bowl, slipping them into the slits you cut. Strum each individually to hear the sound, and rearrange them if you want the notes in a different order.
- Cut a guitar-neck shape out of corrugated cardboard.
- Punch a hole in the headstock of the guitar for each of your jingle bells.

- Cut a 3-inch piece of chenille wire. Thread it through a jingle bell and a hole in your guitar headstock, and then twist it together. Repeat if you have more than one jingle bell.
- Duct tape the bowl to the bottom of the guitar neck.
- Decorate with markers.

### **Write a Song**

- Read Zephaniah 3:17.
- Have kids each make up a song that God would sing over them, using their instruments to play along. Kids can strum the rubber bands for guitar sounds or tap the headstock to make the bells jingle.
- Read Psalm 149:3-5.
- Have kids play their instruments joyfully as praise to God.

### **Talk About It**

Ask: • **Tell about a musical instrument you play or wish you could play.** Share your own answer first.

- **How does music demonstrate joy?**

Say: **One of our Bible verses for today tells us that God rejoices over us with singing. It's neat to think that God uses music to show his joy! And we can use music to show our joy, too. We can sing about God...or anything else we're joyful about! God is joyful, so we're joyful.**

Have kids take their instruments home and play them for their friends and families to show joy.