

LESSON 10: GOD DELIGHTS IN HIS PEOPLE

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers talk about joy, search for something, hop along a path, dance, and play instruments.

Supplies

- Bible
- 10 paper or child-safe pretend coins
- masking tape
- musical instruments
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Hide 1 of the pretend coins in a place that will be difficult for kids to find without your help. Keep the other coins with you.
- Use masking tape to make a fun path in your room that kids will be able to hop along.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

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



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers 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.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers measure how far they can jump.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers try to track a moving coin under cups.

Supplies

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



CRAFT

Preschoolers 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.

**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 preschoolers show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Make a fist, and when you bump your fist to another person's fist, open your hand and wiggle your fingers.)
- 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 leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share songs that make *them* feel happy. Preschoolers might share about fun songs you sing in your class, songs on popular movies, or songs they listen to with their families. Help preschoolers by giving them more examples, if needed.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers 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

- Bible
- 10 paper or child-safe pretend coins
- masking tape
- musical instruments
- music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Hide 1 of the pretend coins in a place that will be difficult for kids to find without your help. Keep the other coins with you.
- Use masking tape to make a fun path in your room that kids will be able to hop along.

Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the activity. You can find the album [here](#).
- If you don't have kids' instruments, you might string single bells on a chenille wire and twist the ends to make a loop that kids can hold on to and shake.

Talk About It

Say: **Today we're learning that God is joyful, and we can be joyful, too. When we're joyful, that means we're happy, cheerful, and full of God's great big love.**

Share about a few things that bring *you* joy and how you show that joy. For example, maybe it brings you joy to see your grandchildren, and you show joy by smiling and playing happily with them or singing a cheerful song to them.

Ask: • **What makes *you* joyful?** Help the children get started, if needed. They might share that seeing their friends makes them joyful, having a special treat makes them feel excited inside, or running around on the playground brings them joy. As children share, point out ways they might show joy in the different scenarios. For example, they might smile, laugh, jump, dance, sing, or give someone a big hug.

Say: **It's great to have joy! And because God is joyful, he's the one who brings us the most joy. He loves us each very much, and when we feel his love, it fills us up with so much cheer.**

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible says something about joy.** Read Zephaniah 3:17, and then say: **God is with us all the time, and it makes him joyful to be with us. The Bible says God sings joyful songs over us!**

Look for a Lost Coin

Say: **We're precious and important to God. That's one reason God is so joyful about being with us.**

Ask: • **What do you think makes you important to God?** Invite children to share any ideas they have. Anything that they perceive makes them important is okay.

Say: **Each of you is very special. You're important to God because he made you and you're his good friend. He wants to be with you all the time. Jesus told a story in the Bible about how important we are to God.** Read Luke 15:8-9, and then show your pretend coins. Lead the children in counting them. **Oh no! I had 10 coins. I'm missing one, like the woman in the Bible. Will you help me find it?**

Lead the children in looking around the room. After a minute, lead the children to the area where you hid the coin, and help them find it. When a child finds it, have him or her hold it up. Say with enthusiasm: **I'm so excited! We found my missing coin.** Lead the children in a big cheer.

Tell about something *you* lost that was very important to you. Maybe you lost your car keys, some money, or a favorite piece of jewelry.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you lost something that was important to you.** Kids might share about a favorite stuffed toy or blanket.

Say: **We all have things that are so important to us. And God loves us like this—he never wants to be away from even one of us! And he’s always very happy and joyful to be with us!**

Hop Along a Path

Say: **The Bible also says that God is joyful about leading us. He loves to be with us. And he loves to lead us to places that he has specially planned for us to go! I’ve made a fun path for us to follow to help us think about that.**

Lead the children to line up at one end of the path, and stand in front of them. Say: **God wants us to feel joy, so he leads us to places where he knows we’ll have joy. Follow me and jump for joy along our path.** Lead children along the path, encouraging them to have a fun time hopping the whole way.

At the end of the path, have the children sit, and ask: • **How did you feel, hopping along the path?**

Say: **It was fun to hop. Maybe some of you were smiling, and others were giggling. It felt good to get up and jump around. God is joyful, and he loves when we’re joyful, too. That’s why God loves to be with us and to lead us to special and wonderful places. When I say “God leads you to special places,” I mean that God has a special plan for you.**

Dance and Play Instruments

Say: **When God brings us joy, we might smile, giggle, or jump around. Let’s look at one more way we might show joy.** Read Psalm 149:3-5.

Say: **Let’s show our joy with music.** Give some children musical instruments; turn on music; and encourage children to sing, dance, and play their instruments. Have kids take turns with the instruments.

Play Freely

Say: **There are lots of ways to show joy. Today we cheered when we found my missing coin. We also hopped along a path, and we sang, danced, and played instruments. Even a smile or a giggle shows joy. God is joyful, and he’s happy when he sees that we’re joyful, too. He’s the one who gives us everything that brings us joy. Let’s thank God for the joy he brings us.** Lead children in a brief prayer.

Say: **Now it’s time for you to pick something of your own that brings you joy. Maybe you’ll...** List several ways children could play freely in your room. For example, they might love to use the slide, play with baby dolls, color, or play with trains and cars on a track. Remind kids that God gives us all the things that bring us joy, and then encourage them to play joyfully. Allow children to play freely, as time allows.



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 what a joy it is to be with him.

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.

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.

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!**



OBJECT LESSON

Jump for Joy!

[10 min]

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. **We're joyful jumpers! 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.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Jump for Joy!

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!**



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?** Preschoolers 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 preschoolers 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 preschooler a section of black card stock.
- Use a whiteboard or sheet of paper to show preschoolers 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 preschooler 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 preschooler tightly wrap a sheet of scrap paper and then wrap it in a sheet of aluminum foil.
- Have preschoolers 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 preschoolers' crafts are finished, turn on an upbeat song and let preschoolers sing into their microphone crafts.

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

The Heart of God, Lesson 10: God Delights in His People. Design and base content copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. Licensed for use with 1-20 students. Permission to reproduce granted for local church use only.