

Bible Story: On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIRV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid an "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page and a coloring supply.
- On the "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page, show kids the start of the maze (Jerusalem) and the end of the maze (Emmaus).
- Explain that two friends are walking on a long road, and they need help finding the way.
- Let the kids trace the path through the maze using the coloring supplies.
- Optional: For a fun challenge, set a timer or have the kids challenge each other to see who can get to the end first.

What You Say:

"Great job! You helped the two friends find the way! In our true story from the Bible today, these two friends were walking on a long road and feeling very sad. But then Someone joined them and told them something that changed everything! Let's go find out who this Person was and what He said."

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today's video lesson]

2. Joy Uncovered

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Philippians 4:4
- Small prepared white pieces of paper with “JOY” written on them in white crayon
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Cups of water
- Paper towels
- Wet wipes

What You Do:

- Look up Philippians 4:4 and read aloud for the kids.
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Hand out the small white pieces of cardstock paper. Each child should write their name on the back of the paper.
- Ask kids to gently paint over the entire page with their watercolor paints.
- As they paint, the word “JOY” will begin to appear on the paper.
- Once revealed, talk about the Memory Verse: *“Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4.”*
- Ask kids what they notice about their painting—how the word was “hidden,” and what helped it show up.

What You Say:

“Wasn’t it cool to see the word ‘JOY’ appear on your paper? It was there the whole time—you just couldn’t see it until the color revealed it. Joy is like that! Because we belong to Jesus, we can have joy in our hearts all the time, even when we don’t feel it at first. Jesus helps us uncover joy as we remember His love, His promises, and His truth. You can have joy every day because you belong to the Lord, and **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there’s a bigger story!**”

3. Two Kids and a Stuffed animal

What You Need:

- Stuffed animals
- Pre-marked start and finish line

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a stuffed animal.
- Explain that they are to walk from the start line to the finish line and back, holding the stuffed animal between their backs the whole time.
- Encourage them to work together to keep it from falling!
- If it falls, allow them to pick it up again and keep going.
- After the race, gather the kids and ask:
 - “Is it easier to walk alone or with a friend?”
 - “In our story, who was walking with the two friends?” (*Jesus!*)
 - “Did they know it was Jesus at first?” (*No.*)
 - “How did they feel when they realized it was Him?” (*Joyful! Happy!*)

What You Say:

“Great teamwork! Walking with friends makes the journey better. Cleopas and his friend went on a seven-mile trek from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. They were sad at the beginning of their walk talking about how Jesus had died, then someone joined them. It was Jesus! But they didn’t know it was Him. Jesus asked them, “*What are you talking about as you walk along?*” (*Luke 24:17 NIV*). As they all walked together, Jesus explained the bigger story. He explained that He had to die and rise again to rescue everyone. When the friends understood the bigger story, they had so much joy! And just like them, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there’s a bigger story.**”

4. Pray

“Dear God, thank You for the story of the friends on the road. Thank You that even when we’re sad, we can have joy because we are a part of the best story ever that You are writing! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Rescuer. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”