

Rejoice!

Key Verses: Philippians 4:4, Acts 16:16-40

Big Idea: We can rejoice in the Lord **always**, even on hard days.

Game: Keep It Up/Fill It Up

- Supplies needed: One bucket per team, one balloon per team, 10 small objects per team
- Choose one person from each team to come to the front. Place the 10 small objects on the floor around their team bucket, and hand them the balloon.
- When the music starts or when you say, “GO”, each player must hit their balloon into the air while trying to add the 10 items into their bucket. The balloon must stay in the air the entire time. If the balloon hits the floor, that player's turn is over.
- Whichever team gets the most items in their bucket wins. You can just do a one time head to head, or let every team member go and keep a running total.

Memory Verse: “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” Phil. 4:4

- Have the kids repeat the verse back to you a few times.
- Ask, “What does rejoice mean?” (to feel or show great joy or delight) Can you think of a time in the Bible when someone rejoiced? (After a battle was won, after a miracle, etc)

Memory Verse Activity: Move It or Lose It

- Split your group into two smaller groups (I did the boys and the girls).
- Have each group move to opposite ends of your space and work together as a group to come up with motions for the memory verse.
- Allow each group to perform their motions for the entire class.
- You can award a small prize to the team that performs with the most energy and excitement.

Bible Story: Rejoice *Always*???

- You will be telling/acting out the story found in Acts 16:16-40
- Get two volunteers to play Paul and Silas
- The rest of the group will be the sound effects for the story. (sounds include: the lady who followed them and yelled, the fight scene when Paul and Silas were beaten, the jail doors being slammed shut, Midnight singers, and of course... the earthquake)
- Tell the story while acting it out and cue the kids when to make sounds. Let it be loud, dramatic, and fun!

Application

- Bad days happen, bad things happen, feelings get hurt, bodies get hurt, family problems arise.
- But the Bible does not tell us to rejoice only when things are good. It is clear when it says, "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS."
- Paul and Silas had every reason to not rejoice. They had every reason to pout and be sad. But they chose to rejoice and sing praises.
- Even when things don't seem to be going your way, know that God is always there for His children. We have hope in Him. And if we choose to rejoice even in our bad days, who knows what God will do or whose life could be affected.
- Because Paul and Silas chose to rejoice in one of their hardest days, the Jailer and his family were converted.

Prayer

"Jesus, I thank You for loving me. I thank You that You are always with me. Even on hard days, I choose to rejoice in You. Fill my heart with Your joy. Help me trust You. And help me praise You no matter what. In Jesus' name, Amen."