

# SABBATH SCHOOL

Level K • Unit 9 • Week 3

## JOY

### OBJECTIVE:

Children will learn the meaning of joy, a fruit of the Spirit, through the story of the prodigal son.

### ATTENTION GETTER:

**Prepare:** Before class, cut out pictures which demonstrate joy, happiness, pleasure, delight, excitement, dancing, singing, etc. On each picture, write a word meaning joy such as one of the words above. (Note: It might be necessary to mount the pictures on other pieces of paper for the words to be written and read.) Place the pictures into a jar or small container. Place the container into a paper bag.

**Say:** I have something special in this paper bag. Something we all want and God wants us to have. This bag is full of joy. I will let each one of you pull out a piece of joy.

**Do:** Open the bag, take the jar out and have each child pull out one picture.

**Say:** Let's learn about joy by looking at the pictures you drew out of the joy jar.

**Do:** Have each child show the other children their picture and have them describe what is happening.

After each child shows a picture and describes it, read the word and make sure they understand that the word has to do with joy.

### BIBLE LESSON:

**Say:** Today I'd like to tell you a story about a man and his two sons. It will help us to learn more about joy and also more about God.

- Do:** Read Luke 15:11-32 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words. Explain how in old times the firstborn son received special preference. The oldest son would receive twice the amount of inheritance given to other sons. Make sure they understand that it was the youngest son who wanted his inheritance before his father died. Explain that this is a story, or a parable, given by Christ and it is often called the story of the lost son or prodigal son. Let them know that prodigal means lavish, extravagant and wasteful.
- Ask:** What did the younger son do with the money he got from his father? [Wasted it, lost it, spent it all.]
- When he ran out of money, what happened to the youngest son? [He fed the pigs, felt hungry, knew he was wrong and wanted to go home.]
- What did the son do? [ He went home.]
- How did the father act towards his lost son? [His father kissed him, put a fancy robe on him, killed the fatted calf and had a party with music and dancing.]
- Say:** Moms and dads would be so happy to see a lost son. Even when children do something wrong, parents forgive them and love them. That is what God does. He forgives us when we say we are sorry for doing something wrong, and He is very happy. Singing and dancing shows joy. Kissing his son and giving him a wonderful dinner shows joy or happiness.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

- Say:** Remember when the young son came home the father had a special dinner prepared and there was music and dancing? We are going to make musical instruments today.
- Note:** The following activity was also used in unit 2. You may want to encourage children to make a different instrument than they did earlier in the year.

#### 1. Tambourine

- Materials:** Chinet (or similar brand) lunch or snack plates  
Paper hole punch  
Yarn or ribbon  
Bells with loops (available in craft stores) (6 to 10 for each student)  
Crayons or markers

- Prepare:** Punch 6 to 10 holes in edge of plates  
Cut pieces of yarn or ribbon (about 3 inches long)  
Thread yarn or ribbon through bell loops

In class: Children begin by decorating their plate. Then they thread the pieces of yarn with bells through the holes. (They may need help tying knots.)

## 2. Maraca

Materials: Paper lunch bags (brown or white)  
Rice or beans  
Yarn or ribbon  
Crayons or markers

In class: Children begin by decorating their bag while its flat. Then add a handful of rice or beans, tightly twist the bag opening and tie yarn or ribbon around twisted neck of bag to hold it closed. This end becomes the handle for shaking.

## 3. Harp

Materials: Same as the tambourine above, except for bells

Prepare: Cut outline of a small harp into the paper plate  
Punch 8 to 12 holes around the top and bottom of the "harp"  
Cut yarn about a yard long (check length with sample)

In class: Children color their plate with crayons. Then they thread the yarn through the holes to make the strings of the harp.

## Music:

The children should know the music, "The Fruit of the Spirit" by now. Have them sing the song while they march around the room, shaking their tambourines. (From the audio tape, *Hide Them in Your Heart, Vol. 2* by Steve Green. The publisher is the Sparrow Corporation, P. O. Box 5010, Brentwood, TN 37024-5010.)

If we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness.

The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step, keep in step with the Spirit.

If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step, keep in step with the Spirit.

## MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

We have been continuing our lessons on the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Today the children learned about joy through the parable of the lost son (prodigal son).

## **ASK ME...**

- What did the younger son do with the money his father gave him?
- When he ran out of money, what did he do?
- How did his father feel when he came home?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

As a family, discuss the fruits of the Spirit that have been covered in your children's Sabbath School classes. Talk about examples of how these fruits can be shown in our lives.

Talk about music in the Bible. Tell the children that the Bible talks about dancing and singing praises to God. This may be a good opportunity to talk about music that is pleasing to God.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"