



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



THE BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

THE BIBLE

David Dances Before the Ark:

I Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; (I Peter 1:8-9)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | "The Joy, Joy, Joy"
- ACTIVITY** | Rhinoceros Stomp
- ACTIVITY** | Explain It!
- QUESTION** | Happiness vs. Joy?
- SCRIPTURE** | II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
- BIG IDEA** | God gives unexplainable joy.
- VIDEO** | Unusual, Episode 2
- STORY** | Unusual Joy
- OBJECT LESSON** | Joy Fizz
- SCRIPTURE** | I Peter 1:8-9
- ACTIVITY** | Explosive Joy Craft
- REFLECTION** | Joy Giants
- MEMORY VERSE** | Anaconda Puzzle
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What did David summon his troops to get?
 - Why was the Ark of the Covenant so important to David?
 - How did David respond when the ark finally arrived in the city?
 - Read I Peter 1:8-9. Do we need to be able to see God in order to feel the love of God?
 - What makes you happy?
 - What is the difference between happiness and joy?
 - How can we get unexplainable joy?
- ACTIVITY** | Boxes of Joy
- MEMORY VERSE** | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR PRETEENS



UNUSUAL

BY ASHLEY SIDER

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

OBJECT LESSON | Joy Fizz

If possible, allow older students to participate in the object lesson by pouring in the elements.

ACTIVITY | Explosive Joy Craft

Another way you could do this activity is by [filling eggs with paint](#) and giving kids a chance to throw them at a large canvas/paper.



WEEK 2

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



UNUSUAL

BY EUGENIA LEE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Rhinoceros Stomp

Balloons can be overwhelming for some kids with special needs. You can instead have them do a quieter version, like walking around on tiptoes. To make it more interesting, you can take your group on a "safari" through an obstacle course or different floor variations, such as foam board, bubble wrap sheet, gymnastics mats, etc.

ACTIVITY | Explain It!

Have them describe the word without the restrictions of the word list. You can have them draw pictures or act it out if that is more comfortable for them.

REFLECTION | Joy Giants

Did you know that some people have difficulty reading facial expressions? Many people with disabilities, particularly autism or other conditions with social skills deficits, require explicit lessons on understanding different facial expressions and how to understand nonverbal communication and others' feelings.

Turn this into a learning opportunity for all kids. Talk about all of the ways kids experience joy and the way kids see joy in others. List those together and don't skip the opportunity to hear from kids with different needs and abilities about the ways they sense joy in others and the ways they express it differently, too.



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

THE BIBLE

David Dances Before the Ark:

I Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; (I Peter 1:8-9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | “The Joy, Joy, Joy!”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the song, “[The Joy, Joy, Joy](#),” and lead the kids into a fun worship time. If the video can’t be shown on a large enough screen that everyone can see, the leader can teach or demonstrate their own hand motions.*
- We’re going to open our worship today with a classic song about Jesus and joy!

ACTIVITY | Rhinoceros Stomp

- Here’s a fun animal fact for you, scientists aren’t really sure how rhinoceros’ feet work. They have strangely tiny feet for their enormous bodies, and yet they still seem to walk and run and stampede just fine! I wouldn’t want a rhino to step on my foot, that’s for sure! Now, who wants to pretend to be a stomping rhino?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, blow up balloons with strings tied on them, as well as a marked off area to play in. Split the kids into two teams, and designate a color of balloon for each team. Instruct each kid to tie a balloon to their left leg securely. When the music starts, everyone has sixty seconds to stomp on the opposing team’s balloons without pushing and without stepping out of the bounds of the playing area. If anyone steps out, they are automatically out! Once someone steps out of bounds or their balloon is popped, they must step out of the ring. If the time ends before all of one team is out, the team with the most unpopped balloons wins! Make sure you check in advance for latex allergies, open-toed shoes, and sensitivity to loud sounds. The*

kids who can't participate may choose to be "judges" or "counters," or they may choose to go to a quiet room with a leader to color or help prepare a snack.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** An alternative to this activity would be to do an animal march with or without obstacle course, such as "going on a safari."

ACTIVITY | Explain It!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get cards from games like "[Don't Say It](#)" or "[Taboo](#)." You can also use an online generator (like [this](#)). Split kids into two or more teams, depending on the size of your group. Have teams take turns sending one member up at a time to represent their team. The objective is for kids to get their teams to guess the main word on their card without saying words on the forbidden list. The team to guess the most number of words wins!

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have them describe the word without the restrictions of the word list. You can have them draw pictures or act it out if that is more comfortable for them.

- Wasn't it challenging to explain some of these words without saying the forbidden words? Sometimes it's really difficult to explain things. Like . . . the color blue. **How would you explain the color blue, without using the word, "color"?**
- But just because something is unexplainable, that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We are going to find out today that God gives us something that is difficult to explain, but it's very real!

QUESTION | Happiness vs. Joy?

- Have you ever been so happy about something that you just didn't know what to do with yourself? I mean really happy. I mean really, really happy. So happy, that you felt it bubbling up and bursting out? **How did you respond to all that happiness?**
- **So, what do you think is the difference between happiness and joy?**
- Happiness is tied to a circumstance, maybe an event or an object or a person. Joy is not connected to just one thing or person. Joy is an attitude we can have in our hearts no matter what is happening around us. True joy comes from God!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Reveal to the kids a gold box. Inside the box, place an item that is special to you in some way – perhaps an heirloom, an object from your childhood church or camp, or something that reminds you of someone you love.
- Today, we're going to continue to talk about David and a special box that made him really, really happy! Now, this wasn't just any box . . . this was a super duper special box! Probably the most important box the world has ever seen! **Can anyone guess why?**
 - Let's see what's inside of this box. . . (*Open the box to reveal the special item inside. Make sure you share why it's important and what or who it reminds you of.*)
- Now, this is what makes my box so special, but the reason this particular box was so special to

David in our Bible story was because it was a holy box that was surrounded by God’s power. This box was called, The Ark of the Covenant.

- In the Ark of the Covenant were things that reminded the people of Israel how amazing God had been to them.
- Even though the Ark of the Covenant had a home, King David decided to move it closer to him to keep it safe. He sent 30,000 of his best men to protect it and bring it back carefully to Jerusalem.
- Let’s read this verse in the Bible to see how the trip went.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Samuel 6:5*
- That sounds like a party! Who is up for a party right now? I think we need a dance break!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cue some upbeat songs (such as “Celebration” by Kool & The Gang) and teach the kids some trendy – or not-so-trendy – dance moves. The sillier you get, the better. If there isn’t a leader willing to guide this, pick a kid who’s willing to show off their moves or watch a YouTube video!*
- You all sure know how to party! And that’s just what David did! David was not just happy. David was joyful. In fact, even though he had lots of challenges, David was so full of joy that when the ark finally arrived in the city of David, he danced in his underwear! That sounds really embarrassing, but apparently it did not bother him!
- When David’s wife, Michal, saw him dancing from a window, though, she got mad at him. She didn’t like that the king would humiliate himself like that. But David didn’t care. He was so full of joy, he made offerings to God and he celebrated with the whole city! Burgers and fries for everybody! Okay, maybe it wasn’t burgers and fries, but you get the point . . . knowing that God was near filled David with joy.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives unexplainable joy.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask a leader to dress up for the part of Brick, but this time, he/she carries not only a dumbbell, but a stack of very confusing-looking books, such as a thick math or science text, or some heavy theology books from the church library. Read the following script:*
 - **Brick:** Oh, hey, kids! Hey, (Leader’s name). I just got here from the gym. I was just, ya know, gonna sit down and do a little reading. No big deal. Lightweight stuff. Probably too easy for me.
 - **Leader:** Well, hi to you, Brick! We’re really happy to have you with us! We would love for you to participate, but if you need some peace and quiet to read, you might need to go to the church library (or another quiet church room).
 - **Brick:** Nah, I could hang out here. Someone might need a hero.
 - **Leader:** Well, you never know! Brick, what makes you happy?
 - **Brick:** Oh, you know. Being the strongest human alive. Also the smartest. Also the best-looking.
 - **Leader:** Oh . . . okay! Well, it does seem like you enjoy being a hero! Does it make you happy to help people?
 - **Brick:** Actually . . . it really does. It’s, like . . . super meaningful, you know? And sometimes, even when I can’t help people, just trying to help makes me feel. . . like I’ve been given a gift from God. (Takes a moment to pause and looks uncharacteristically pensive.)

- **Leader:** Wow, Brick! That is actually kind of amazingly deep! I think you might really understand joy!
- **Brick:** Anyone with biceps like these understands joy, buddy. *(Goes back to being typical self, showing off muscles.)*
- **Leader:** Ooookaaay. Well, hey, since you love helping, maybe you could help us reveal this week's Big Idea!
- **Brick:** Is it . . . in a jar?
- **Leader:** No, no. This week, I just wrote it on this piece of paper and you can just read it!
- **Brick:** Oh, okay. No worries, then. I'm pretty much the world's greatest reader. See my books? They're huge.
- **Leader:** Great! Here you go!
- **Brick:** God . . . gives . . . murfledurfleburf . . . joy.
- **Leader:** I'm sorry. What was that word?
- **Brick:** *(Squints at paper.)* Gleebledweeblezeeb. . .
- **Leader:** Uh. . .
- **Brick:** Jubbity dubbity woobity!
- **Leader:** Yeah, um. . .that's not. . .
- **Brick:** ZINGLEDWINGLE. God gives zwingledwingle joy. Pretty sure that's what it says.
- **Leader:** Maybe we could just . . . Hey *(Point to a reader-aged kid in your group)*, could you hop up here and have a look and see if you can read this Big Idea? *(Kid reads it out loud.)*
- **Brick:** *(Scoffs.)* Totally what I said. Glad I could help sound it out for you, kid.
- **Leader:** *(Pats Brick on the shoulder sympathetically.)* Brick, my friend, always great to see you, but didn't you say you had some reading to get to?
- **Brick:** Totally. Big time. Gotta get to it.
- **Leader:** Okay, we hope we can see you again soon!

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

STORY | Unusual Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Think of a story in your own life – or someone else's –when you experienced unexplainable joy. Try to pick a story that helps the kids understand how joyfulness is not necessarily tied to underlying conditions. Make sure the kids know God can fill us with joy even when things going on around us are not perfect. Remind the kids how David's wife, Michal, didn't quite understand David's joy and was even angered by it.
- Aren't you glad God gives us joy even when things aren't perfect?
- Sometimes our joy makes no sense to others, but we can continue to be thankful that **God gives unexplainable joy.**

OBJECT LESSON | Joy Fizz

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a display table with water in two large jars or other glass containers that are easy to see from around the room. Fill both jars about halfway with water. Have a bottle of Joy

dishwashing soap on hand. Prepare a container with dry ice, making sure kids do not come near it. If you do not have access to dry ice, try using a fast-dissolving tablet, like Alka-Seltzer.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** If possible, allow older students to participate in the object lesson by pouring in the elements.

- Happiness and joy seem really similar at times, but there is a difference.
 - This first jar is kind of like happiness. (Spoon a little bit of dry ice into one jar and watch the water bubble and steam rise.)
 - **What are a few things that you really want?** When we get something we want, it can make us really happy. But when the excitement gets old, our happiness can go away.
- Now, joy is different. (Show the kids the bottle of Joy soap.)
 - Even though it can feel like happiness, joy has a way of bubbling up in us so much more and sticking around for a lot longer because joy comes from God! (This time, pour the dishwashing soap in the second jar and spoon some dry ice in as well.)
- **Now, which one would you prefer?**

SCRIPTURE | I Peter 1:8-9

- So, how can we experience unexplainable joy like David did today?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read I Peter 1:8-9.
- David was filled with the joy of God when the Ark of the Covenant finally arrived. Fortunately for us, we don't have to travel miles and miles with troops to go get a big, gold box in order to be filled with God's joy!
- We are under a much better promise. Because of our trust in Jesus, **God gives unexplainable joy.** This joy is long-lasting because it's not based off of things we can see, right? It's based on a hope that is to come, which we can't really see, but we can still believe!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Explosive Joy Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids drop small dollops of wet liquid watercolor paint onto a piece of paper or paper plate, then use a straw to blow on the paint in different directions to create a "firework." As they add different colors, the fireworks will touch and the colors will blend.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Another way you could do this activity is by filling eggs with paint and giving kids a chance to throw them at a large canvas/paper.
- **God gives unexplainable joy.** But that joy doesn't just stay inside of us. Joy is explosive and it spreads!

REFLECTION | Joy Giants

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pause for the kids to reflect. Ask the kids to identify one person who they know could use some joy this week. Tell the kids to come up with ideas on how they can spread joy to that particular person. The whole point of this reflection is to make it personal to the kids. Allow the kids who are comfortable to share with the group.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Turn this into a learning opportunity for all kids. Talk about all of the ways kids experience joy and the way kids see joy in others. List those together and don't skip the opportunity to hear from kids with different needs and abilities about the ways they sense joy in others and the ways they express it differently, too.

- I can't wait to hear next week about all the ways you changed the world by sharing unexplainable joy with others.

MEMORY VERSE | Anaconda Puzzle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, use pieces of construction paper or cardstock to create giant anacondas –the anaconda body can be regular rectangular pieces of paper, perhaps with stripes drawn on them, and the head and tail can be a sheet of paper with one end cut into a curve. Write each word of the memory verse on one of the sheets, with the first word written on the head and the last word written on the tail. Divide the kids into teams and give each team the sheets mixed up. Whichever team correctly sorts the memory verse and forms a snake first wins.

PRAYER

- Dear God, we live in a world where we are always fighting to be happy. Thank you for reminding us today that true joy is not found in the things we have, but in the God we serve. Thank you for filling us with unexplainable joy. Help us to spread that joy to those around us who so desperately need it. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did David summon his troops to get?
- Why was the Ark of the Covenant so important to David?
- How did David respond when the ark finally arrived in the city?
- Read I Peter 1:8-9. Do we need to be able to see God in order to feel the love of God?
- What makes you happy?
- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- How can we get unexplainable joy?

ACTIVITY | Boxes of Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, print the Boxes of Joy printable on cardstock. Instruct the kids to decorate their "Boxes of Joy" – with crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, sequins, etc. Have them create their own unique animal on the box to go along with the theme of the series. As they build and decorate their boxes, pass out a few strips of paper and encourage the kids to write things that bring them joy. Tell the kids to place the strips in their boxes and look at them during the week.

- We have written down some things that bring us joy. But our joy should not just stay inside our boxes and kept to ourselves . . . we can spread joy! Remind yourself throughout the week that **God gives unexplainable joy**, and find ways to share that joy with others!

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*