



## Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

### Joy

Hey there, super kids! Did you know that when we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we get a special gift called joy? It's like a superpower that makes us happy inside, even when things outside are not so great.

Let's open our adventure book to Galatians 5:22-23 and discover some amazing treasures. It says, "The Holy Spirit grows all sorts of good things in us, like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And guess what? There's no rule saying we can't have lots of these!"

So, if joy is one of these awesome treasures, it means we can always find happiness in our hearts because the Holy Spirit is like a gardener, making sure the fruit of joy grows beautifully inside us.

Remember, when we choose to follow Jesus and trust Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit as a special friend who stays with us all the time. And this friend helps us grow all these wonderful fruits in our life's garden.

#### Special Guest:

Consider having an expectant or new mother come and talk to the class, describing the pain and difficulties experienced in pregnancy, but the joy she has at the same time, knowing that she is suffering for her baby and that it will not last forever. At the end of her short period of suffering, she will have a precious baby to hold in her arms and spend each day with.

The mother herself can draw the connection or you can after she shares her story. In a similar way, we can have joy when we go through suffering in our lives because we know who we are suffering for, Christ, and He is worth it! We also know that one day we will be with Him for eternity and never experience suffering again.

#### Power Point

The Holy Spirit within us helps us experience joy even in times of sorrow.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation."  
Habakkuk 3:18 ESV

#### Treasure Hunt: Hooray!

**Before Class:** Hide wrapped snacks around your room for the kids to hunt for later.

As an introduction to today's lesson on joy, we are going to have a treasure hunt. The rule is: each time a child finds one of the treasures you have to shout HOORAY! (Let the hunt begin!)

After all of the treats have been found, explain the reason you had them shout. The Bible says that God and His angels shout for joy (HOORAY!) every time a person puts their faith in Jesus. Each fruit of the Spirit begins with God and the Holy Spirit grows these Godly qualities in us.

#### Dig Deeper

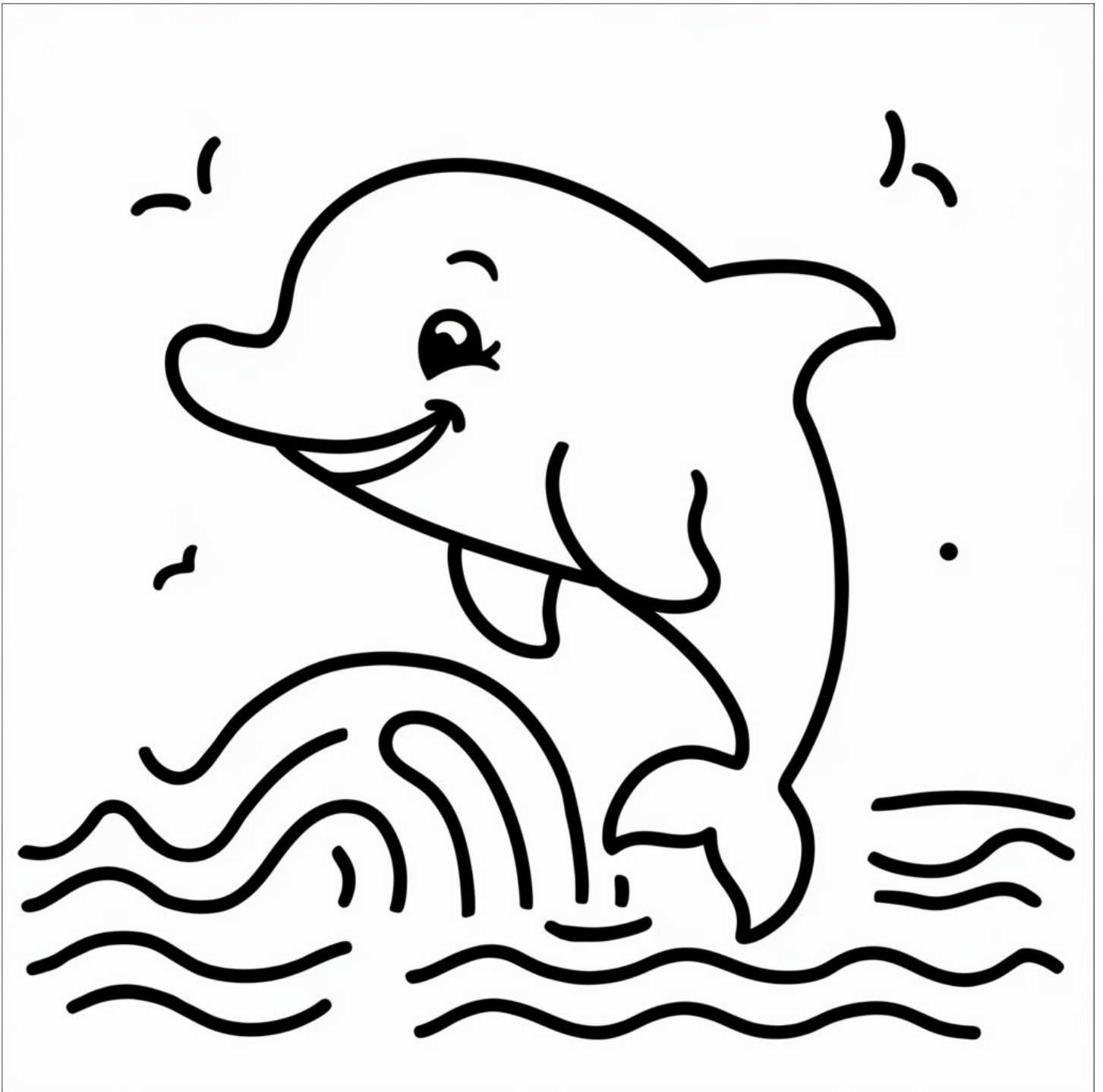
Turn to Proverbs chapter ten verse 28 (help them find the passage). Would anyone like to read this verse for us? "The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked brings will perish." If we are Christians, we have something the rest of the world does not: the hope of eternal life with God. After we die, we know we will live forever with God. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes and there will be no more sorrow. When we understand that we have this to look forward to, it gives us joy! We know that the hard times we experience on earth will not last forever because of Christ. Knowing this truth allows us to have joy even in the midst of sadness and sorrow.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## COLORING PAGE

### JOY

The cheerful behavior of dolphins reminds us of joy.



# Take-Home

## Summary

### Bible Passages:

Habakkuk 3:18; Galatians 5:22-26; James 1:2

### Main Point:

The Holy Spirit helps us experience joy even in times of sorrow.

### Discuss:

**Q:** How is it possible to have joy in difficult times?

**Q:** What is the difference between joy and happiness?

**A:** Happiness cannot be present when someone is sad, but joy can always be present, even at the same time as sadness.

### A Gospel-Centered Approach:

- God is all the fruit rolled into one amazing Being.
- Jesus is all of God's attributes displayed in a single human being.
- Kids will only be good when they fall in love with the good God Who loves them enough to die for them.

## Explore the Bible

**Ask:** Where can we look to discover what joy truly is? (God's Word!). There are many verses that talk about joy in the Bible. Since His Word is our truth, it is the first place we should turn to

learn more about this fruit of the Spirit.

**Read and discuss** one or all of the Bible passages listed.

## Family Activity

Give your family an object lesson to help them understand joy. Have a bottle of seltzer water and a magic marker. Say, if I gave you \$100 you would be happy. (Draw a smiley face on the bottle.) But if you lost that \$100 you wouldn't be happy any more. (Draw a sad face on the bottle) Joy comes from the inside. (Shake up the bottle.) When trouble comes, we can still have joy on the inside. (Open the bottle cap and let it spray out.)

## Apply and Pray

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share if they haven't already. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the joy we are able to have because He lives within us.