





Year 1–Quarter 1 “God the Father”

Quarter Aim: God is not distant or unapproachable; rather, He is a caring Father who loves us deeply and wants the best for our lives.

Lesson 12: God’s Joy

God Has Joy-God Gives Joy

1. When you hear the word “joy,” what comes to mind?

“Good happenings” when everything is going right. (Have money, healthy, successful.)

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:11, How does Paul describe God? (“...gospel of the blessed [happy] God...”) Our God is a joyful God.

Jesus taught that our Father God was like the father of the prodigal son when he returned home. Do you remember how that father acted? He was happy to see his son, filled with love, running toward him, hugging and kissing him. He called for a great celebration. That’s joy. Luke 15:7, 10 says that God has joy whenever anyone comes to Him to have his or her sins forgiven. The Bible describes lots of rejoicing in heaven at that time

Zephaniah 3:17 says, “The Lord your God is with you, The Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” (NIV)

Have you ever thought about God rejoicing over you through singing? Joy is something that God HAS, but it also something God GIVES.

Joy=Deep Inner Gladness

Joy is a deep inner gladness, even if life is hard.

Question: How can joy make us strong?

Imagine you have this deep inner gladness inside you. Even when things outside seem tough or sad, this gladness stays strong. It’s like having a secret smile that makes you feel better, even when life is hard.

Now, why does this inner gladness make you strong? Well, think of it like this: When you know this gladness is with you, it gives you courage. It’s having a God-given power! You can face difficult times and still feel strong because of this joy.

God has this special gladness too. When He shares it with us, it makes us even stronger. So, remember, this hidden joy on the inside helps us be brave and face anything!

This kind of joy that I am describing is supernatural. It is part of the character of God and comes to us only from a relationship with Him through knowing Jesus Christ.

Power Point

Our God is a joyful God.

Lie:

God is weak.

Truth:

Nehemiah 8:10,
“The joy of the Lord makes you strong.” (NIRV)





Small Group Discussion

Q: Do you remember what God said about His creation at the end of each of the creation days? (Genesis chapter 1) He said it was good. After day 6, He said it was very good.

God wasn't only giving His approval, but also revealing His pleasure. The Father God has joy in what His hands have made, especially His creatures. That includes you. You are one of His creatures.

Ask: How does that make you feel? Does that make you want to smile inside to think that God finds pleasure in you?

Read: John 15:11. What does Jesus want for those who trust in Him?

Jesus, Who was God, had God's joy **in** Him. And, He promised to give His joy to His disciples so that it would be **in** them also. Jesus didn't promise this to just those who knew Him when He was on Earth, but to all who follow Him.

Apply the Lesson

Serve God with Delight

The joy of the Lord is God's joy. He has it, and when He gives it to His people, it makes them strong. God's joy in us gives us the courage to face tough times. **God's joy finds great pleasure in His creation and His creatures, especially people who trust in Him.** His joy in us makes us strong.

Having God's joy in us, we should delight in the things that God delights in. We can ask ourselves: "What pleases God, what gives Him joy?" How would you answer that?

When you have His joy, then you should take pleasure or delight in those same things. When you have the joy of the Lord, you rejoice in justice. You find pleasure in God and knowing Him, not in personal and selfish pleasures. You also find delight in studying His Word the Bible, in doing what pleases Him, and in praising God.

Some people think that when you are a Christian, you give up anything that gives you pleasure. That is not what the Bible says. It is not wrong for a Christian to have pleasure or to seek pleasure; it is only wrong to seek pleasure in the things that are selfish.

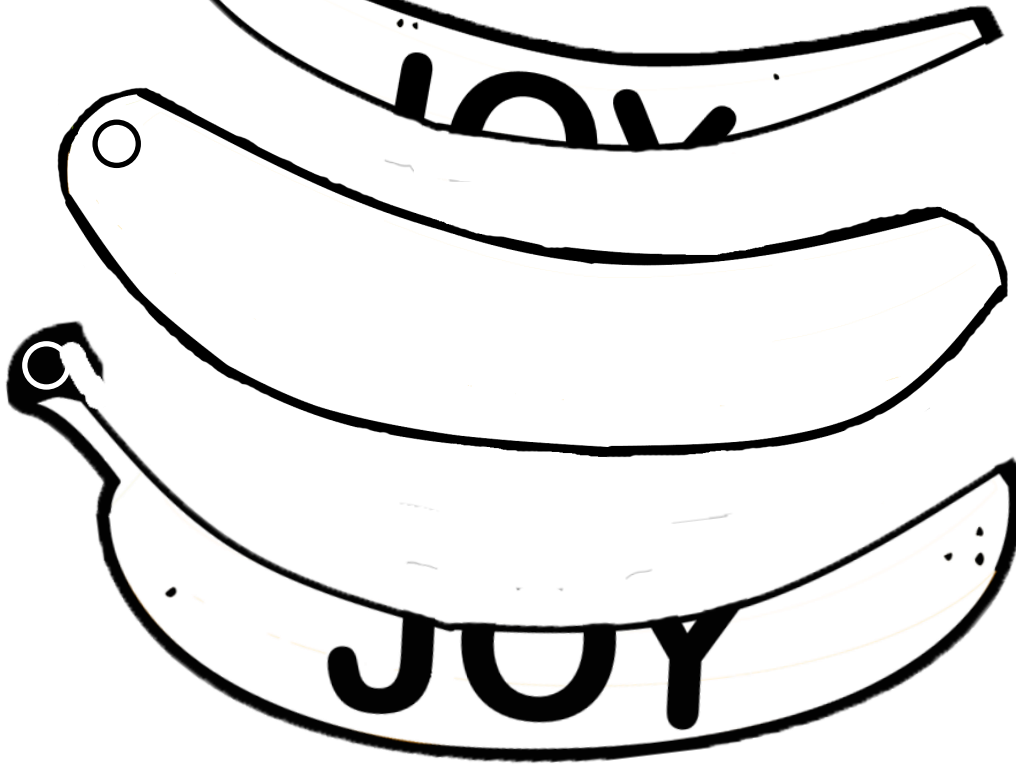
Christians filled with God's joy should find many reasons to laugh and delight in life. We can serve God with delight. We can praise God and sing worship songs with delight. We can love our families and friends with delight.

And, our joy will be even greater in heaven when we are with Jesus and can have the delight of seeing Him with our own eyes.





Joy Banana Craft



Nehemiah 8:10, *"The joy of the Lord makes you strong."* (NIRV)

Instructions:

1. Copy this page on white cardstock for each child in your class.
2. Let the children color and decorate their craft.
3. Have them cut out the pieces including the Bible verse. (Help younger children)
4. Glue or tape the Bible verse to the inner banana.
5. Punch small holes in each of the pieces.
6. Attach all pieces together with the paper brad.
7. Have children write their names on the back.

