



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Great Chapters of the Bible  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 43

# Joy Chapter: Philippians 4

**Take Home Point:** \*Be joyful in the Lord always.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Key Verse:** Philippians 4:4, "Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful!"

**We will help kids know:**

- The apostle Paul wrote Philippians while he was in jail. It speaks of having joy in all circumstances. Chapter four is considered the "Joy" chapter.
- There is a difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is based on happenstance and joy is based on an attitude of rejoicing.
- Joy robbers include worry, not being thankful, and a lack of prayer.




**We will help kids feel:**

- A little bit of happiness and a little bit of sadness based on the amount of candy they receive or their circumstances.
- Joy as they pray through their thanksgiving list and concerns list

**We will help kids do:**

- Share what makes them happy or sad while participating in a simulation game that allows them to experience favorable and unfavorable circumstances.
- Write a prayer list of worries and people they will pray for.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids talk about happiness and sadness in different circumstances. They learn to distinguish the difference between happiness and joy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three or four M&amp;M's</li> <li>• large candy bar for everyone in the small group</li> <li>• small paper sack</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  7  13	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Steal the Sock Game:</b> Kids play the game "Steal the Joy Sock" as an introduction to the things to keep in the middle of our joy.  <b>Interactive Teaching:</b> Philippians 4:4-7 is read, and three stories acted out by students enforce the application of this passage.  <b>Appendices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a sock for every two small groups with the word "Joy" written on it in permanent marker</li> <li>• three small objects or balls to be put in each sock (Write the words – "faith," "thankfulness," and "prayer" on objects or balls with permanent marker or address labels.)</li> <li>• permanent marker or labels to mark the objects</li> <li>• shopping bag</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids list prayer request for others and worries to be prayed for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• candy bar</li> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• Joy Chapter sheet for each student (see appendix)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction!** Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**As kids gather:** Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

**Supplies:** a lesser snack and a greater snack (an example would be four M&M's versus a large candy bar)-one larger snack for each person in your group, paper sack

**Today we will talk about what makes us happy and what makes us sad. One thing that makes me happy is when I receive something nice. Maybe that makes you happy, too. With that in mind, I have a special treat for the person whose birthday is closest to today. I only have a few M&M's, but I would like to share them with someone.**

Find out whose birthday is the closest to today's date and give M&M's to him/her.

**As I give these M&M's to you, I would like you to share with us some of the things that make you happy.**

Let the student respond. Ask that those who did not receive the M&M's tell about things that make them sad.

**Those were the only M&M's I had, but I just remembered that in this bag I have just enough candy bars for everyone else who has not received a treat this morning.**

Pass out candy bars to everyone but the student who had the M&M's. Do not give in and give this student a candy bar. He/she will receive his/hers in the small group application time to demonstrate another point.

**How do you feel now that you have received the candy bar? Do any of you feel happier than you did before? Do any of you feel sadder?**

**Those who received candy bars, would you please share with us some of the things that make you happy.**

After these kids have shared, ask the person who didn't receive the candy bar to share things that make him/her sad.

**In large group, we will continue to try to understand the difference between joy and happiness. Today we will learn to *\*be joyful in the Lord always.***

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Steal the Sock Game:** Kids play the game “Steal the Joy Sock” as an introduction to the things to keep in the middle of our joy.

**Interactive Teaching:** Philippians 4:4-7 is read, and three stories acted out by students enforce the application of this passage.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Difficult situations had taught Paul, the writer of Philippians, to depend on God for all things, even money to meet his needs. Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to depend on God for help instead of worrying.

Read Philippians 4:1-3.

**What two women did Paul mention by name in Philippians 4:2?** *(Euodia and Syntyche.)*

**According to Philippians 4:3, what had these women done?** *(They had fought beside Paul to spread the Good News of Jesus.) Does this sound like it was something easy to do?*

Read Philippians 4:4-7.

**What should we do instead of worry?** *(In every situation we should pray and give our requests to God while giving thanks.)*

**How can we give thanks while going through hard times?** *(We can have faith that God has something better in store for us.)*

**Describe God's peace and what it does for us.** *(Philippians 4:7. Because of Jesus, God's peace is better than anything we can imagine and it guards our thoughts and emotions.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Today's key verse is Philippians 4:4, *"Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful!"*

Why can we be joyful always in the Lord, even in the midst of problems, worries, or hard times? (*Philippians 4:4. The Lord is near.*)

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

*Supplies: Joy Chapter sheet for each student, pencils, a candy bar for the kid who did not receive it during Small Group Warm-Up*

**How does worry steal our joy?**

**Can you share times when you were worried? How did you feel?**

**Now imagine the same situation and think about how you could have felt peace if you had prayed about the problem instead of worrying.**

**What else could you have done besides pray?** (*Read scripture. Listen to praise music. Thank God for whatever the outcome may be.*)

Give the person who only received a few M&M's in Small Group Warm-Up a candy bar.

**Sometimes we can't see what is going to happen when we are in the middle of a loss or hard time. As we wait on the Lord, he will provide in wonderful ways. Giving you a candy bar demonstrates this.**

**Sometimes the blessing may be very different than what we expect. The Bible tells us that the Lord is near. He will have a blessing for us nearby. We can *\*be joyful in the Lord always.***

Application Activity:

Hand out the appendix page for each person. Read through the passage again, and then have kids fill in their prayer requests.

Prayer Time:

Let kids pray for the specific things that they wrote on their prayer list. Then thank God for his peace in all circumstances and that we can trust he will bring blessing out of hard times.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation

## Great Chapters of the Bible

### Joy Chapter – Philippians 4

*The large group presenter will assume the role of a librarian. His/her name will be either Ms. Freda Rita or Mr. Gudenbuch. Costuming might include reading glasses (if you wear your own, place a piece of tape on the bridge), bow tie or special librarian hat. The presenter should portray the caricature of a “bookworm.”*

*Ms. Freda Rita or Mr. Gudenbuch will introduce the favorite chapters in the best book in the library, the Bible. This librarian operates with a different set of rules than what is typical. Instead of the rule “no chewing gum,” now kids must chew gum and play with it. Every week, a new rule will be revealed.*

*The stage for large group should be set up to look like a library: a bookshelf with some books, maybe a desk, and an old computer. Make it as elaborate as you would like. A sign should be hung somewhere that says “RULES of the Library.” Each week a new goofy rule will be revealed.*

*Supplies: each pair of small groups need a sock with three balls or small objects that have “faith,” “thankfulness,” and “prayer” written on them and placed inside the Joy sock, shopping bag*

## The Joy Chapter

### Philippians 4

### Audience Participation Teaching of the Joy Chapter

#### Introduction of Ms. Freda Rita/ Mr. Gudenbuch

**Hello, I am Mr. Gudenbuch (or Ms. Freda Rita) of the \_\_\_\_\_ (put in your church name) Memorial Library. This is a very special and unique library. When I am in charge, the rules are a little different than what you would see at your school or city library. Today’s rule is about our book return policy. I heard that some of you checked out books last week and brought them back today. I *WILL NOT* tolerate this. If you check out a book from this library, you must *steal* it.**

**What kind of a library do you think we are running here anyway! Hey you, over there, what are you doing with that book in your hand? You better not be returning it. How about you over there? I see nothing in**

**your hands. Good for you! You checked out a book and didn't bring it back.**

### Introduction of the "Steal the Joy Sock" Game

**I can tell already that some of you need some practice in stealing. So, we are going to play a game called "Steal the Joy Sock."**

**This is how we will play the game. Two small groups will play against each other. The groups need to have the same number of players. If there is an odd number, add players from another team or have a small group leader fill in.**

**The two teams need to face each other about fifteen feet apart. Number each member of one opposing team 1,2,3,...8 (or however many players are on the team), and the other opposing team from 8,7,6...1. When the teams are facing each other, team member eight will be looking at number one of the other team.**

Let the teams get set. Then place the Joy Sock in the middle of one pair of teams to demonstrate.

**Notice the sock that is in the middle of the two teams. When I call out a number, for example, number five, both kids with that number need to run fast and try to steal the sock. They will need to return it to their team before being tagged by their opponent to receive a point. If your opponent tags you, he/she will receive the point.**

Give other pairs of teams their socks. Call out random numbers, playing the game for about seven minutes.

### Teaching the Point of the Game

Collect all of the joy socks and take them to the front. Pull out the items in one of the socks to show what they say.

**What do faith, thankfulness, and prayer have to do with joy? These three things are in the middle of our joy. When we forget to practice these three things, our joy can be stolen.**

Hold up the object that says "faith" on it.

**Faith means trusting that God will work everything out for the best.**

Hold up the object that says "thankfulness" on it.

**The second object says thankfulness. No matter what is going on, we can choose to be thankful to God who provides everything we need.**

Hold up the object with “prayer” written on it.

**The third object is prayer. Without prayer or regular talking to God, we will lose our joyfulness. You see, without prayer, we are focused only on ourselves and not on God.**

**Let’s read about this in Philippians 4.**

#### Teaching of Philippians 4

**I need three volunteers to come up and help me.**

Choose the volunteers. Give an object to each helper as they come forward.

**You have the item that says faith, you have thankfulness, and you have prayer. Any time during the reading of Philippians 4:4-7, you hear something that describes the object you are holding, raise it up over your head. For example, if I read something about giving thanks, the person with “thankfulness” written on the object will hold it up.**

**If I said something about faith, or the opposite of faith, which is worry, the person with the faith item will raise it up. Let’s see what our volunteers can catch as I read the following scripture.**

Read Philippians 4:4-7 slowly.

***“Always be joyful in the Lord! I’ll say it again: Be joyful! Let everyone know how considerate you are. The Lord is near. Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God’s peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.”***

**Thank you very much for your help. You may be seated. Thank you for helping demonstrate that in the middle of joy there is faith, thankfulness, and prayer.**

## Three Audience Participation Teaching Stories

**CAUTION:** *Move quickly through all these or the lesson will begin to drag.*

**What do you think the enemy, Satan, wants to do? He wants to steal our joy.**

**I will need some volunteers to help act out some stories that describe how our joy may be stolen. For the first story, I need one volunteer.**

Choose a volunteer.

### Story One, FAITH

**Please come up and pretend to be shopping in my store.**

Give the volunteer a shopping bag.

**Hello, this is Gustov (or Gertrude). He/she is shopping in my Worry Store.**

**What do you see in my store that looks good? Go ahead and use your imagination and point to something that you would like to purchase.**

**Oh, I see you would like to buy some of these. These are worries about homework. You will like them. In fact, I sell a lot. You can use these at night and not get any sleep.**

Pretend to put it in the shopping bag.

**I bet you would like that up there.**

Pretend to pull something off a shelf.

**This says, "Worry about getting people to like you," another hot seller. This is guaranteed to give you a stomachache.**

Pretend to put this in the bag.

**Your bag isn't quite full yet. I am sure we can find some more worries. Up here (point up) we have another item that says, "Worry**

**about problems at home.” Go ahead and take it. Look, there is “Worry about all the problems in the world like war and hunger.” That would fit perfectly in your bag.**

**It looks to me like your bag is about full. In this store you must pay, and believe me it will cost you! It will cost you your joy, sleep, and peace. Pay up!! Thank you for shopping at The Worry Store.**

Have the student sit down.

**This may seem silly, of course, but how often do we worry about things that we cannot control? God says there are many situations we can’t control, but instead of worrying about them, trust him. The verse for the day says, “Rejoice in the Lord always” not rejoice just when everything goes right. When you rejoice in the Lord, you remember that he gave you his Son Jesus, to lift off your failures and to fill you with his presence. When you have problems, you can choose to rejoice in him INSTEAD of worrying.**

### Story Two, THANKFULNESS

Bring up two boys for this story.

**Here we have Edgar and Oscar. They are going to use their imaginations and act out the story as I tell it.**

**Edgar and Oscar discovered one day that they had a very rich uncle. This uncle told them he had a special gift for each of them. As you can see, Edgar and Oscar are very excited!**

**What Edgar and Oscar didn’t know is that their uncle was really testing their attitude. He explained to the boys that he had a different gift for each of them, and the gifts were hidden behind two doors.**

Pretend to show them the doors.

**First, he took Edgar into this room.**

Point to the pretend door, open it and have Edgar pretend to go in.

**Look at this room filled with toys just for you. We can see he was very happy about this.**

Pause for actor to look happy and excited.

**All these toys were his to play with. There was every kind of toy imaginable. Oscar yelled out “WOW!”**

Wait for Edgar to yell, "WOW." If he doesn't, repeat it until he does.

**He dove in and began playing. Let's see how that looks. What are you playing with now? Interact with the kid. What is that toy?**

**After only two or three hours, Edgar grew tired of all those toys and began complaining and kicking the toys around. He whined to his uncle, "Is this all there is?"**

Wait for the volunteer to repeat what you said.

**Oscar, on the other hand, was taken to a room over here.**

Point to the room, and pretend to open the door.

**This room had no toys in it. Oddly enough, the only thing in it was a huge pile of horse manure all the way to the ceiling.**

Plug your nose.

**Oscar went into the room, walked around the pile of manure with a huge smile on his face. He jumped on the pile and began to throw the horse manure behind him.**

**Oscar's uncle asked, "What are you doing?" "Why are you so happy?"**

**Oscar replied, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!"**

Wait for the volunteer to say this.

**Oscar continued, "With all this horse manure, there has to be a pony in here somewhere."**

Have volunteers sit down.

**Now, what is the truth here? In any circumstance, we can be thankful, because we know that God can have a blessing for us. Thankfulness does not depend on what kind of circumstances we are in, but rather on the attitude of our heart. If God loved us so much that he gave his own Son to die for us, wouldn't he have a special blessing underneath any of the bad circumstances we face?**

### Story Three, PRAYER

Bring up a girl for the third story.

**I would like to introduce Syntyche (pronounced SIN-tih-kee). This is actually a name in Philippians 4:2. She was someone Paul encouraged to have an attitude the Lord wants her to have.**

**Let me explain Syntyche's problem. She knows there are great riches on the other side of this wall.**

Point to a wall in the room without a door.

**Come over here Syntyche. Here is the wall. Imagine the great riches on the other side. I know you want to get these riches.**

**This is how Syntyche tries to get to them. She doesn't think she needs a door, but rather she can walk right through the wall. Let's see her try it.**

Volunteer tries to get through the wall.

**It looks like walking through the wall will not work. I don't think that is the way to get to God's riches. What do you think is the way?**

Ask the volunteer.

**Sure it is through the door. Prayer is like a door. It is the passageway we go through to step into the room filled with riches. These are riches that Jesus has won for us. Without prayer, our joy evaporates. Prayer keeps us always looking to God. Without it we can only look to ourselves. With prayer, we can always talk to God and know that he answers because he gave us his Son Jesus!**

Have volunteer sit down.

**Let's close with prayer.**

**Heavenly Father, thank you that no matter what happens, we can be joyful. Help us not to base our happiness on happenstance, or circumstances, but base our happiness on rejoicing in you. You have given us so much! The best gift of all is your Son Jesus. Help us to rejoice always in you, Lord. Again, we say: let us rejoice always! In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Make an additional copy of this sheet. Then copy the two sheets back to back and cut in half. Each student is to receive a half sheet. The scripture will be on one side and the student's notes on the other.*

## **The Joy Chapter**

Philippians 4:4-7

Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful! Let everyone know how considerate you are. The Lord is near. Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.

**"Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks."**  
Philippians 4:6

My list of prayers for other people:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

My list of worries to pray for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**DON'T BRING  
BACK YOUR  
BOOK**