



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 33

# Satan Wants to Rob Our Joy; Jesus Wants to Give Us True Joy

**Primary Scripture:** John 10:10-11

**Key Verse:** John 10:10, “A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need.”

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids often feel external circumstances “make” them happy or sad. Many of their decisions are based upon these feelings. We want our kids to know that they can live their lives not based on their feelings, but on the fact that Jesus lives for and with them. He gives them joy that is greater than circumstantial happiness. Satan tries to rob us of our joy. But when we are well equipped—when we listen to Jesus—we can prevent the thief from robbing us.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus carried the sorrow of our sin on himself when he died on the cross.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus said he came so that we would have life to the full. He would give us his presence through the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus through us:** By resisting Satan’s attacks, we make a strong witness to the world of Jesus as our source for true joy.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies:*

- actor dressed as a thief in a hood, a mask, and possibly a cape

Read from the Bible Romans 14:17.

**The Bible says in Romans 14:17, "God's kingdom does not consist of what a person eats or drinks. Rather, God's kingdom consists of God's approval and peace, as well as the joy that the Holy Spirit gives."**

**So, God's kingdom is a place of approval, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Since God's kingdom is here where we worship him, we can worship him with true joy.**

### Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

As the children are worshiping in song, a thief dressed in a hood, a mask, and possibly a cape comes from the back of the room to try to rob joy. He tries to convince kids that they should not be joyful but should think of things they don't like. He says things like:

Thief actor:

***Is the room too cold? Too hot? Don't think about the words you're singing. Better yet, don't sing. Better yet, why don't you jab and poke the person next to you. Whatever you do, don't think about how wonderful God is or how much he loves you. Don't talk to him about the things that are bothering you.***

The large group presenter is very calm throughout the thief's trickery and says:

**How many of you have thoughts like these from time to time? It's not wrong to have them, but listening to them and doing what they say is wrong! The battleground is our mind. Sometimes Satan can put thoughts or suggestions there. Do you know why he does it? He wants to pull us away from God. He wants to steal our joy. Who should we listen to: the words of Jesus or the words of Satan?**

Finally, the large group presenter dismisses the thief with the words:

**I refuse to let you steal my joy; I'm listening to Jesus!**

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

Talk about whining, a subject that all kids can probably relate with and give an example of whining, i.e., "Do I have to pick up my room?"

Ask volunteers to come forward and give demonstrations of things they whine about. You can even have a whining contest as you discuss some of the typical things we whine about. Then say:

**Whining is just one way Satan wants to rob our joy. He wants us to think only about the bad things that have happened to us and to whine and complain. But God wants us to think about all of our blessings and how Jesus is alive right now. He can fill us with his love. A Good News verse can be found in John 10:10-11:**

***"A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I (Jesus) came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."***

Pray, asking forgiveness for whining and complaining. Include in your prayer that God has forgiven us through Jesus who gave his life to give us life. Thank God for giving us true joy.

## Song of Response:

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## Offering:

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

**Did you know that when we do not give our gifts of money to the Lord and keep everything we have for ourselves, it's just like robbing from God? It's also bad because we are robbed of our joy when we don't experience the joy of giving to God.**

**Let's give to God joyfully today and know that the gifts we bring to him will be used to help bring his kingdom into the hearts of more people.**

Talk about your current mission project and how God is bringing joy to the lives of these people. This, in turn, increases our joy.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies:*

- handkerchief

### **Steal the Joy:**

This game is like “Steal the Bacon” in which two teams of up to ten players each (a total of 20 children) are lined up facing one another. The children are numbered off one through ten.

*The number of children used may be adjusted depending on the number of children in Kids Church. Several different groups can also play in different areas of the room.*

In the middle of the two lines is a small handkerchief. The leader calls out a number and the person with that number from each team approaches the handkerchief. Each child tries to grab the handkerchief and run back to his team’s line, handing the handkerchief off to a teammate. If he achieves this, he wins. The child who missed the handkerchief chases the one who has it. If he tags his opponent before handing off the handkerchief, the chaser wins.

After the game, discuss:

**Is it better to tag the grabber or grab the handkerchief and run? Whoever is quick and sneaky usually wins in this game. Jesus describes Satan as a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan is sneaky and quick, like we were in this game. However, when we know what Satan is up to, we can use the power we have in Jesus to tell Satan, “I refuse to let you steal my joy; I am listening to Jesus!”**

# Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

**Supplies:**

- J.O.Y box, available from Dock Haley Gospel Magic Co.  
([http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=3319017&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7037&cat=&catstr=or a simple coin purse](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=3319017&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7037&cat=&catstr=or a simple coin purse))
- six white LifeSavers
- three colored LifeSavers
- black marker

*Practice with the J.O.Y box so you can perform this illusion without staring at your hands or interrupting your dialogue. The effect of the trick is how well you talk as you do the trick as opposed to how deceptive your hands are.*

Load three colored LifeSavers into the hidden compartment of the J.O.Y. box. Make sure your thumb is placed at the top of the hidden compartment's flap so no one can see it. Inside the box, place six white LifeSavers as follows.

**Let's listen to Jesus tell us about a lifesaver! In John 10:10 and 11 Jesus says, "I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."**

**Who is the lifesaver?** *(Jesus.)*

**Who are the sheep?** *(Anyone who trusts Jesus as Savior.)*

**How has Jesus saved your life?** *(He was the good shepherd who gave his life for us. He died on the cross.)*

**If you die, would you go to heaven and have life with Jesus?"** *(Yes, if I trust Jesus as my Savior.)*

**Let's look at these LifeSavers then. I will put a whole bunch of them (six) in this J.O.Y. box. That reminds me that if I know Jesus as my lifesaver, then I know he wants me to have his joy!**

**What I have here is a J.O.Y. box. This J.O.Y. box reminds us of God's special formula for joy: first Jesus, second others, and finally yourself. When we think first of serving Jesus and then serving others, we will not be so selfish when we think of ourselves.**

**Let's all say this together. "J.O.Y.! J is for Jesus. O is for others. Y is for yourself."**

Invite a child to reach into the J.O.Y box and pull out one of the white LifeSavers.

**That LifeSaver reminds me to think of Jesus first. It reminds me that my life will be saved with him. He will always be with me as long as I live. When I die, I get to go to a wonderful place called heaven and have a great time there forever.**

Invite another child to reach in for a white LifeSaver.

**This LifeSaver reminds me of others. I want to show my love for Jesus by being kind and helpful to others. I even want to put them before my own selfishness.**

Let another child take a LifeSaver.

**It is okay to think of yourself and love yourself, but we should not love ourselves more than we love Jesus. We should not be so selfish that we do not think of others. That is why the J.O.Y. box has "yourself" in third place, behind Jesus and others.**

**Did you know that Satan cannot stand for us to have joy? The Bible describes Satan as a thief and a robber. He wants to come and steal our joy. This is how he does it. Who would like to pretend to be the devil?**

Hand this volunteer a black marker and invite him to pull out the three other white LifeSavers and color them black as you discuss how Satan wants to steal our joy!

**Sometimes the devil says, "Think only of yourself. It only matters if you are happy. Forget what God or anyone else says."**

**If we listen to Satan, he can rob our joy and ruin it. Satan might also say something like, "Go ahead and feel sorry for yourself. No one else understands. You should just give up."**

**Is the devil robbing from us? He is if we are listening to him and doing the things he says. Let's think of something else Satan might say. Does anyone else have an idea?**

**Here's a suggestion. The devil wants us to hold a grudge against someone who does something wrong against us. He wants us to think about how to get even instead of how to love and forgive that person. Before long, we would have no joy. We would only have bitterness.**

After all the white LifeSavers have been removed, unfold the box and show it to be completely empty.

**Satan wants to rob, kill, and destroy.**

Offer the black LifeSavers to anyone who would like to eat them. (Do not accept any offers!) Point out that the black candy would not taste good.

**If we do the things Satan tells us, then our joy is robbed. Jesus wants to give us true joy, though. Anytime we feel Satan tempting us, we need to stop and pray. Let's pray now.**

**Dear Jesus, we refuse to let Satan steal our joy. We are listening to you. Thank you for being our lifesaver by giving your life for us on the cross. We pray that you would help us remember the J.O.Y. box—Jesus first, others second, and then yourself third. Help us have true joy by doing just that. Amen.**

Fold the box up and pour out the colored LifeSavers from the hidden compartment. Note that the candies have changed!

**Kids, look at this! Three new LifeSavers from the J.O.Y. box! And just when it seemed like none was left! They are even in color! I guess it goes to show that Jesus always has a surprise for us when we refuse to let Satan steal our joy and instead we listen to Jesus.**

## **Application:**

### **Who Ya Gonna Listen To?**

A costumed character playing the role of Satan is needed for this interactive drama. This character can be dressed in a black cape or wear a black veil over his face. Satan will whisper thoughts in a child's ear, trying to steal the child's joy. The large group leader will speak God's word in the child's other ear to show the protection we have.

**"I refuse to let Satan steal my joy. I'm listening to Jesus." Let me explain what that means. It is true that in any circumstance Jesus is there to give us joy and all that we need. It is also true that Satan wants to rob us of this joy and do anything he can to destroy our souls. Jesus talks to us in his word, the Bible. When we remember God's word, his Spirit speaks to our thoughts.**



**Satan can suggest thoughts to our spirit. He will try to get us to do the wrong thing or to do things that will take away our joy. We are going to see how this happens. May I have a volunteer?**

Have a child volunteer pretend to be Jeremy.

**Jeremy wanted more than anything to have a remote control car for Christmas. Guess what. He got it! But guess who wants to steal his joy. Satan. Think of the things that Satan might say to Jeremy that would steal his joy.**

The Satan character comes forward and loudly whispers into the child's ear.

**Satan**

"Don't share this toy with anyone. If you do, it will get broken."

"This toy is all you need to be happy!"

"Go ahead and launch your toy off the stairs. It won't break. It's brand new."

**Jesus**

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. God's word also says, 'It's more blessed to give than to receive.' Selfish people aren't happier people."

"Seek first God's kingdom and everything else will be added to you."

"Take care of the gifts that God gives you."

Invite another volunteer forward. This child pretends to be Suzanne.

**Suzanne wanted to spend Friday night with her friends. But since she hadn't felt well earlier that week, her mom said she couldn't go. Suzanne was really upset. What do you think Satan might say to rob Suzanne of her joy? What do you think Jesus might say to make her joyful?**

### **Satan**

"Just tell yourself, 'Mom isn't fair. She doesn't want me to have any fun. I should feel sorry for myself.'"

"Only think about the things you are missing. Tell yourself you can't have any fun staying at home."

"The best thing to do is pout and whine."

### **Jesus**

"Your mother loves you. Respect your mother. She is looking out for your best interest."

"Your mother loves you. Respect your mother. She is looking out for your best interest."

"Choose not to grumble and complain. Rather give thanks in all circumstances."

Invite a third volunteer forward to be Ben.

**Ben had a friend at school that he thought was a true friend. But it seems Ben's friend is now making fun of him and saying bad things behind his back. Ben also knows that his friend doesn't go to church and probably doesn't know Jesus as his friend and savior. Ben is angry with his friend for what he did. What do you think Satan might say to rob Ben's joy? What do you think Jesus would say to give him joy?**

### **Satan**

"Your friend is just a sinner. He's not good enough to be your friend."

"Say bad things about your friend and you will feel better."

"God would want you to punish him as part of God's punishment."

### **Jesus**

"God loves your friend and loves everyone so that no one would perish."

"Do not repay evil for evil. Do good to those who persecute you."

"I'll take care of the punishment. I took the punishment for every person's sin."



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids tell about a time Satan tried to rob their joy, like the previous examples, and what they did to stop it from happening.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- actor dressed as a thief in a hood, a mask, and possibly a cape

## *Learning Game:*

- handkerchief

## *Bible Presentation:*

- J.O.Y box, available from Dock Haley Gospel Magic Co. ([http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=3319017&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7037&cat=&catstr=](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=3319017&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7037&cat=&catstr=)) or a simple coin purse
- six white Life Savers
- three colored Life Savers
- black marker

## *Application:*

- actor dressed as Satan with a black cape and/or black veil covering his face

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