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PHILIPPIANS

LESSON 1: LIVE JOYFULLY ☆

Lessons in this series: 1 2 3 4 [Overview](#)

In this lesson, the children will see how much Paul loved others and encouraged them to live joyfully for Christ in all circumstances.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Encouragement, Happiness, Joy

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

The Party's Over (Activity) [Click here](#)

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (7 minutes)

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 NIV

Read the Bible verse aloud to the class. Go around to each child and repeat the verse and pray it over each child as you touch the top of each child's head. Have the children participate by pointing to each classmate and say "you" when you are tapping the top of their head.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Introduction:

In today's lesson we are going to learn about a man named Paul who did extraordinary mission work in spreading the gospel. He talked about Jesus so much that the Romans got mad and put him in jail. As he was in prison, Paul wrote a letter to the Philippians who were always eager to help him. What do you think Paul wrote in the letter while he was in jail? (Allow children to respond.) Let's read the letter Paul wrote in our Bibles.

Read Philippian 1

Optional: Philippians 1: 1-20

Role Playing: Have a pretend letter like you are Paul rereading the letter out loud to yourself. Read with expression. Make a small jail window out of cardboard and aluminum foil for the bars.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who wrote the letter? (*Paul.*)
2. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter? How did he get there? (*He was in a Roman prison because he was preaching the gospel.*)
3. To whom did he write the letter? (*All Christians in Philippi, Philippians, and all believers everywhere.*)
4. Why was Paul joyful? (*He had a special relationship with Jesus.*)
5. Do you think it was hard for him to encourage others while he was in prison? (*No, he didn't let prison stop him from telling others about Jesus.*)
6. Do you have that special relationship with Jesus that allows you to be joyful even when times are tough? (*Allow children to respond.*)

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Receive the Joy (Craft) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Who Do You Think About? (Activity) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Provide a snack of pretzel sticks and allow students to spell the word JOY, before eating their snack. Thank God for the eternal joy He gives us and thank Him for today's snack.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Count It All Joy (Activity) [Click here](#)

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to continue reading Paul's letters of joy to the Philippians.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

