

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
3	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Special times	3: Happy times in Church

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes  
(Mod = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S	Kinaesthetic K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [ copy this:  ] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

**Prayer:** Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace, good will among men. We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We worship Thee. We glorify Thee. We give thanks unto Thee for thy great glory. Amen

**Starter:** Give God the glory. A matching game that teaches children to give glory to God. Children will be invited to match sentences from the doxology prayer, Every day will I bless Thee and I will praise Thy name forever, use same coloured paper for a full sentence to help children reconstruct the line, other sentence will be printed/ written on a different coloured paper.

**Learning objectives:**

To learn that we give thanks to our God the Father for the blessings of grace given to us and we return those blessings with our love.

To learn that true joy/ happiness comes from having Jesus in your life and knowing that you will live forever with Him in heaven.

**Core Activities and Learning**

1. The teacher will explain the children that the joy of the Lord is the gladness of heart that comes from knowing God, abiding in Christ, and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was born, the angels announced “good tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10). All who find Jesus know, with the shepherds of the nativity, the joy He brings. Even before His birth, Jesus had brought joy, as attested to in Mary’s song (*Magnificat*) and by John’s response to hearing Mary’s voice as he “leaped for joy” in his mother’s womb.

The teacher will tell children that Jesus described Himself as bridegroom enjoying a wedding feast and He “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit”; He spoke of “my joy” and promised to give His joy to His disciples (John 16:24). Joy is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5, 22). In Christ, the believer is “filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy” (1 Peter 1:8). Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, produced by God’s work in us, and it is part of God’s will for us. Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy comes when we are aware of God’s grace. The teacher will explain to children what rejoicing in the Lord means.

2. The teacher will tell children that one way to experience joy is to focus on God. Rather than dwelling on our difficulties or those things taking away our contentment, we can dwell on God. The book of Philippians tells us about the joy in Christ: *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”* The teacher will tell children about the importance of praising God, remembering that He is near, praying about our worries, and keeping our minds focused on the good things of God. We can experience joy when we praise God. We experience joy through prayer. And we experience joy by keeping our focus on godly things rather than on difficult circumstances or discontentment.

The teacher will tell children that Jesus also gave some instructions regarding joy. He talked about abiding in Him and obeying Him. He said, *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete”* (John 15: 9-11). One of the keys to joy is living in obedience to God.

The teacher will explain to children that joy is an attitude. Our hearts should fill with joy knowing that Jesus has made it possible for us to live forever with Him in heaven. The teacher will ask children: How does it make you feel to know that you will live with Jesus in Heaven forever? (allow children to give answers) Knowing Jesus gives us true joy. You may still be sad at times, but that can’t take away the joy you have in knowing Jesus. Then the teacher will ask the children: What good things has God done for you? (let the children respond). God does so many wonderful, great things for us! If we start to remember all our blessings, and count them one-by-one, our hearts fill to overflowing with joy. True joy comes from having Jesus in your life and knowing that you will live forever with Him in heaven.

3. Puppet play. Children will be invited to explore and play with hand puppets, to create roles and re-enact first hand experiences and talk about how knowing Jesus gives us true joy.

**Resources:**

Hand puppets

**Review:**

Jesus is our true joy!

**Follow Up:**

In the next session, we will learn more about sad times in Church.