

UNUSUAL

WEEK 2

BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

BIBLE

Davi Dances Before the Ark: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; (1 Peter 1:8-9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | "The Joy, Joy, Joy!" ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "[The Joy, Joy, Joy](#)," and lead the kids into a fun worship time. If the video can't be shown on a large enough screen that everyone can see, the leader can teach or demonstrate their own hand motions.
- We're going to open our worship today with a classic song about Jesus and joy!

ACTIVITY | Explain It! ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get cards from games like "[Don't Say It](#)" or "[Taboo](#)." You can also use an online generator (like [this](#)). Split kids into two or more teams, depending on the size of your group. Have teams take turns sending one member up at a time to represent their team. The objective is for kids to get their teams to guess the main word on their card without saying words on the forbidden list. The team to guess the most number of words wins!
- Wasn't it challenging to explain some of these words without saying the forbidden words? Sometimes it's really difficult to explain things. Like . . . the

color blue. **How would you explain the color blue, without using the word, "color"?**

- But just because something is unexplainable, that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We are going to find out today that God gives us something that is difficult to explain, but it's very real!

QUESTION | Happiness vs. Joy? ▲

- Have you ever been so happy about something that you just didn't know what to do with yourself? I mean really happy. I mean really, really happy. So happy, that you felt it bubbling up and bursting out? **How did you respond to all that happiness?**
- **So, what do you think is the difference between happiness and joy?**
- Happiness is tied to a circumstance, maybe an event or an object or a person. Joy is not connected to just one thing or person. Joy is an attitude we can have in our hearts no matter what is happening around us. True joy comes from God!

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Reveal to the kids a gold box. Inside the box, place an item that is special to you in some way – perhaps an heirloom, an object from your childhood church or camp, or something that reminds you of someone you love.*
- Today, we're going to continue to talk about David and a special box that made him really, really happy! Now, this wasn't just any box . . . this was a super duper special box! Probably the most important box the world has ever seen! **Can anyone guess why?**
 - Let's see what's inside of this box. . . (*Open the box to reveal the special item inside. Make sure you share why it's important and what or who it reminds you of.*)
- Now, this is what makes my box so special, but the reason this particular box was so special to David in our Bible story was because it was a holy box

that was surrounded by God's power. This box was called, The Ark of the Covenant.

- In the Ark of the Covenant were things that reminded the people of Israel how amazing God had been to them.
- Even though the Ark of the Covenant had a home, King David decided to move it closer to him to keep it safe. He sent 30,000 of his best men to protect it and bring it back carefully to Jerusalem.
- Let's read this verse in the Bible to see how the trip went.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Samuel 6:5*
- That sounds like a party! Who is up for a party right now? I think we need a dance break!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cue some upbeat songs (such as "Celebration" by Kool & The Gang) and teach the kids some trendy – or not-so-trendy – dance moves. The sillier you get, the better. If there isn't a leader willing to guide this, pick a kid who's willing to show off their moves or watch a YouTube video!*
- You all sure know how to party! And that's just what David did! David was not just happy. David was joyful. In fact, even though he had lots of challenges, David was so full of joy that when the ark finally arrived in the city of David, he danced in his underwear! That sounds really embarrassing, but apparently it did not bother him!
- When David's wife, Michal, saw him dancing from a window, though, she got mad at him. She didn't like that the king would humiliate himself like that. But David didn't care. He was so full of joy, he made offerings to God and he celebrated with the whole city! Burgers and fries for everybody! Okay, maybe it wasn't burgers and fries, but you get the point . . . knowing that God was near filled David with joy.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives unexplainable joy. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask a leader to dress up for the part of Brick, but this time, he/she carries not only a dumbbell, but a stack of very confusing-looking books, such as a thick math or science text, or some heavy theology books from the church library. Read the following script:*
 - **Brick:** Oh, hey, kids! Hey, (*Leader's name*). I just got here from the gym. I was just, ya know, gonna sit down and do a little reading. No big deal. Lightweight stuff. Probably too easy for me.
 - **Leader:** Well, hi to you, Brick! We're really happy to have you with us! We would love for you to participate, but if you need some peace and

quiet to read, you might need to go to the church library (*or another quiet church room*).

- **Brick:** Nah, I could hang out here. Someone might need a hero.
- **Leader:** Well, you never know! Brick, what makes you happy?
- **Brick:** Oh, you know. Being the strongest human alive. Also the smartest. Also the best-looking.
- **Leader:** Oh . . . okay! Well, it does seem like you enjoy being a hero! Does it make you happy to help people?
- **Brick:** Actually . . . it really does. It's, like . . . super meaningful, you know? And sometimes, even when I can't help people, just trying to help makes me feel . . . like I've been given a gift from God. (*Takes a moment to pause and looks uncharacteristically pensive.*)
- **Leader:** Wow, Brick! That is actually kind of amazingly deep! I think you might really understand joy!
- **Brick:** Anyone with biceps like these understands joy, buddy. (*Goes back to being typical self, showing off muscles.*)
- **Leader:** Ooookaaay. Well, hey, since you love helping, maybe you could help us reveal this week's Big Idea!
- **Brick:** Is it . . . in a jar?
- **Leader:** No, no. This week, I just wrote it on this piece of paper and you can just read it!
- **Brick:** Oh, okay. No worries, then. I'm pretty much the world's greatest reader. See my books? They're huge.
- **Leader:** Great! Here you go!
- **Brick:** God . . . gives . . . murfledurfleburf . . . joy.
- **Leader:** I'm sorry. What was that word?
- **Brick:** (*Squints at paper.*) Gleebledweeblezeeb. . .
- **Leader:** Uh. . .
- **Brick:** Jubbity dubbity woobity!
- **Leader:** Yeah, um. . .that's not. . .
- **Brick:** ZINGLEDWINGLE. God gives zwingledwingle joy. Pretty sure that's what it says.
- **Leader:** Maybe we could just . . . Hey (*Point to a reader-aged kid in your group*), could you hop up here and have a look and see if you can read this Big Idea? (*Kid reads it out loud.*)
- **Brick:** (*Scoffs.*) Totally what I said. Glad I could help sound it out for you, kid.
- **Leader:** (*Pats Brick on the shoulder sympathetically.*) Brick, my friend, always great to see you, but didn't you say you had some reading to get

to?

- **Brick:** Totally. Big time. Gotta get to it.
- **Leader:** Okay, we hope we can see you again soon!

VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 2



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

STORY | Unusual Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Think of a story in your own life — or someone else's — when you experienced unexplainable joy. Try to pick a story that helps the kids understand how joyfulness is not necessarily tied to underlying conditions. Make sure the kids know God can fill us with joy even when things going on around us are not perfect. Remind the kids how David's wife, Michal, didn't quite understand David's joy and was even angered by it.
 - Aren't you glad God gives us joy even when things aren't perfect?
 - Sometimes our joy makes no sense to others, but we can continue to be thankful that **God gives unexplainable joy.**

SCRIPTURE | 1 Peter 1:8-9

- So, how can we experience unexplainable joy like David did today?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 1 Peter 1:8-9.

- David was filled with the joy of God when the Ark of the Covenant finally arrived. Fortunately for us, we don't have to travel miles and miles with troops to go get a big, gold box in order to be filled with God's joy!
- We are under a much better promise. Because of our trust in Jesus, **God gives unexplainable joy**. This joy is long-lasting because it's not based off of things we can see, right? It's based on a hope that is to come, which we can't really see, but we can still believe!

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Joy Giants ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pause for the kids to reflect. Ask the kids to identify one person who they know could use some joy this week. Tell the kids to come up with ideas on how they can spread joy to that particular person. The whole point of this reflection is to make it personal to the kids. Allow the kids who are comfortable to share with the group.*
- I can't wait to hear next week about all the ways you changed the world by sharing unexplainable joy with others.

MEMORY VERSE | Anaconda Puzzle ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, use pieces of construction paper or cardstock to create giant anacondas —the anaconda body can be regular rectangular pieces of paper, perhaps with stripes drawn on them, and the head and tail can be a sheet of paper with one end cut into a curve. Write each word of the memory verse on one of the sheets, with the first word written on the head and the last word written on the tail. Divide the kids into teams and give each team the sheets mixed up. Whichever team correctly sorts the memory verse and forms a snake first wins.*

PRAYER ▲

- Dear God, we live in a world where we are always fighting to be happy. Thank you for reminding us today that true joy is not found in the things we

have, but in the God we serve. Thank you for filling us with unexplainable joy. Help us to spread that joy to those around us who so desperately need it. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did David summon his troops to get?**
- **Why was the Ark of the Covenant so important to David?**
- **How did David respond when the ark finally arrived in the city?**
- **Read I Peter 1:8-9. Do we need to be able to see God in order to feel the love of God?**
- **What makes you happy?**
- **What is the difference between happiness and joy?**
- **How can we get unexplainable joy?**

ACTIVITY | Boxes of Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, print the Boxes of Joy printable on cardstock. Instruct the kids to decorate their "Boxes of Joy" – with crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, sequins, etc. Have them create their own unique animal on the box to go along with the theme of the series. As they build and decorate their boxes, pass out a few strips of paper and encourage the kids to write things that bring them joy. Tell the kids to place the strips in their boxes and look at them during the week.*
- We have written down some things that bring us joy. But our joy should not just stay inside our boxes and kept to ourselves . . . we can spread joy! Remind yourself throughout the week that **God gives unexplainable joy**, and find ways to share that joy with others!

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*

