

I Can Choose the Door of Joy!

Week 3 (5th Feb 2023):

The Big Point: I Can Choose the Door of Joy

God's Word: Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:16-40)

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIRV)

Application: I will choose joy!

Series Aim: To inspire kids to depend on God while making choices and choose what pleases God the most.

Creative Video:  Slapstick Theater (Paul and Silas)

Huddle Guide #3

Duration: 20 mins

Before Sunday:

- Pray and prepare yourself by reading through this Huddle Guide and the Word Study of the week found on the [HopeKids Service Plan Blogspot](#).
- All Huddle Leaders (or Huddle Hosts) are to prepare your own “script” and things to say. Feel free to inject your own questions or discussion points whenever necessary to suit the needs of your children.

● **NOTES:**

- *You are highly encouraged to always make your own preparation by reading the Word Study.

Before Service on Sunday Morning:

- Please note that you will be sent the following:
 - Post-It Pads (2 Huddle Groups share 1 pad)
 - A3 Drawing Block
- Prepare all the items that are needed for Huddle Time. For this week:

- Physical Bibles
- HopeKids Notebooks
- Writing Materials
- Post-It Pads (1 service share a few)
- A3 Drawing Block

- ***Prep the A3 Drawing Block before service starts:**

- **Keep one side empty**
- **On one side: "I Can Choose Joy by..."**

- **Optional:** Huddle Leaders can opt to create their own "I Choose Joy" board by bringing corrugated paper instead of just the A3 Drawing block.

During Huddle Time:

- Have the children sit in a circle, keeping it to 12 children per group.
- Welcome and ease the children into Huddle Time by:
 - Introducing yourself and the kids to one another
 - Air high-fives, fist bumps
 - Playing small ice breaker games
- Remind the kids that the BEST rules still applies during Huddle Time

Activity 1: Choosing Joy

Objective: To give the kids and opportunity to understand joy and to think more how to choose joy

Materials Needed:

- Writing Materials
- Post-It Pads (1 service share a few)
- A3 Corrugated Board

Qn: Alright HopeKids, what have we been learning about today? Do you remember the Big Point?

- *Allow kids to respond.*

- Today, we have been learning about JOY and how we can choose to have joy despite the things that might be happening around us.
- The Big Point is **I Can Choose the Door of Joy.**

Now, we are going to play a very simple game to see if you can decide for yourself, what does choosing joy look like?



How to Play:

- Huddle Leaders are to give the kids 2 post-its each.
- Kids are supposed to draw a smiley face on one post-it, and a sad face on the other post-it.
- Huddle leaders will then read out a series of situations and how the characters in the situations react.
- Kids are supposed to hold up the smiley face post-it if the character choose joy and a sad face if they did not.
- ***Get Creative:*** Huddle Leaders can come up with more situations, or make it more interactive by getting the kids to pretend they are the characters in the situation and how they will respond.

1. Aiden has been training very hard with his soccer team in hope to win the inter school tournament. It was the finals and Aiden's team was doing so well and leading 2-1. But at the last 3 minutes the opponent team scored two goals, and won. Aiden was so frustrated and sad that he couldn't help but to tear up. Even so, he knew the opposing team had been training hard too, and he sincerely congratulated them for winning.
2. Hazel and her best friend love acting and are auditioning to get the lead part of the next school play. However, the day before the audition, Hazel fell sick and lost her voice. She was so disappointed and sad, she cried herself to sleep, and didn't want to talk to her best friend anymore.

	3. Conny just found out his mother has cancer. He is scared of what might be going to happen but chose to pray for strength and healing for his mum. 4. Elsa loves to read and she is re-reading her favourite book when her mum called her to help in the kitchen. She put down the book at the living room table. Just then, Elsa's older brother came back with a cup of bubble tea that had already been opened. He carelessly put it on the table and it toppled, ruining Elsa's book. Elsa was really sad but still forgave her brother, and decided to save up for a new copy of the book. 5. Ben's parents won a lucky draw for a holiday for 4 people. Because he is the oldest of 3 siblings, his parents told him to stay home and chose his younger siblings to go. He was so upset at the news and how unfair it was that he slammed the door and stormed out of the house. 6. Jason loves to draw, and has been working very hard on a drawing of fighter jets. It was almost done! When he came back from school one day, he found that his drawings were scribbled by his younger sister who was still a toddler. Upset, he then came to his sister who was playing with duplo and ruined the castle she was trying to build. 7. Kelly has always been bad in maths, but she has been trying really hard and going for tuition classes. She has improved but wondered if it was enough. When she got back her exam papers... She failed by 2 marks. Kelly was disappointed and really afraid of what her parents would say. But she prayed, asking God to give her strength to try again. 8. John is the oldest of 4 siblings. He has always tried his best to take care of his younger siblings, but it gets tough sometimes because he just wants to be a kid too. Once, he
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	was doing his homework when his younger brother was playing with his basketball and hit the vase at home. Afraid of the scolding, his brother told their mum that it was John who broke the vase and John got a terrible scolding. John endured the scolding but after everyone calmed down, came to talk to his mum, saying that it really was not him who was playing the ball as he had been doing his homework. 9. Belle knew that her parents had been fighting, but when she received news that they were going to get a divorce, it was still hard. Belle looked to God and asked that he give her strength to still love each of her parents.
Alright kids. Good job, most of you knew which is choosing joy, which is not. And some of these situations are so hard, so sad, so frustrating or hurtful. But it is possible to choose joy. Let me ask you a question... Qn: What is joy? ● <i>Allow kids to respond.</i> ● Joy is not the easiest to explain or understand. But joy is always a choice. If we do not choose it, we will never get it because when things happen, it is natural for us to have feelings about it. ● When bad things happen - we might feel sad, frustrated or angry. ● When good things happen - we feel happy, excited or thankful. ● But despite good or bad things happening, we can choose to have joy because joy is a deep sense of peace - knowing that God still loves us. Knowing that God is powerful and is in control. Knowing that God is taking care of us and He knows what He is doing and why he allowed us to be in that situation. It's not always easy to have joy, but remember, joy is something that has to be chosen!! ● And God truly is in all our situations. Some situations are terrible. In fact the Bible has so many situations that were terrible, and yet people like Paul and Silas showed us, they could choose joy because they trusted God. ● Because they trusted and believed that God loves them no matter what happened. God is good and still powerful and still taking care of them.	

- So even though the situation is hard or hurtful, they know God will never harm them and chose instead to have joy in God's love and trust God.
- So, like Paul and Silas, you can look to God. In prayer, in praise, in worship!
- Remember HopeKids, **You Can Choose the Door of Joy.**

Similar to the optional add-on game we played last week, play the following to encourage kids to exercise choosing joy: "I Can Choose Joy by..."

Material Needed:

- Show the A3 Corrugated Board with the words "I Can Choose Joy by..."
- Post-it papers

Faith in Everyday Actions:

- Show the kids the corrugated board with the words "I can choose joy by..."
- Remind the kids that joy is a choice they must make.
- Have the kids think of things that usually make them upset/sad/angry
- Get the kids to write on their post-it papers how they can choose joy the next time such a situation happens
- Get the kids to take turns to share and paste their post-its on the corrugated board as a commitment how they can choose joy in their lives and everyday experiences!

Let's now pray together!

- *Lead the kids to pray together in your own words.*
- *Feel free to commit the situations shared in the prayers too! If the kids are able to, you can even challenge the kids to pray for each other!*
- *Possible prayer:*

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me and saving me from sin by dying on the cross. Because of what you did, I know that I am always loved and taken care of. I can have joy and choose joy because you take care of me. When things get hard, help me to remember you and choose joy. Help me choose what will please you the most. I want to make the choices you want me to make.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Activity 2: Memory Verse

Objective: To hide God's Word in the children's hearts

Materials needed:

- Physical Bible
- Recommended to prepare: small pieces of paper or post-its
- Writing Materials

Note: Please note that we do not have a memory verse video for this series. Huddle Leaders are highly encouraged to go through the memory verse with the kids within huddle time!!

God will help us make the right choices. No matter how big or small a choice may seem, we can ask God for help because He cares about the choices we make. The choices we make reveal to us what we think is important and whether we want to live a life that pleases God. When we make choices that please God, it shows that we are choosing to trust Him and love Him. We are loving Him more than what we may want or what we are feeling.

Paul and Silas were able to choose joy, simply because they know Jesus and Jesus' love for them. They know that they can trust God's plans for them and have a reason why God allowed them to be in such a situation. So instead of looking around their surrounding, they chose to look up and remember God's great love for them, which gave them strength to choose joy to praise and worship God!

Let's learn to trust in God with all our hearts instead of what we feel and go through the memory verse together:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIRV)

Huddle leaders can do this in various ways. If using small strips of paper/post-its:

- *You can give each kid one of the strips of paper for them to write on like a dictation.*
- *You can make it a game by having each kid in your huddle group write one word and have the kids put the memory verse together using their word.*

Announcements



Come back next week to continue our series on DOORS and how we can make better choices! Let's continue to learn to make better choices that please God the most.

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