LESSON 6: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—JOY, PEACE

AIM: To show that the Holy Spirit can give us real joy and peace even during the times when everything seems to go wrong. This joy and peace, given by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is activated by trusting God at all times.

GAME: SMILES
Divide children into two equal teams. Sit them in two parallel lines on chairs, facing each other. Team A has to make Team B smile. Team A must not leave their seats and Team B must not close their eyes. Team A can laugh, make faces, etc., to make the members of Team B smile. Once someone in Team B smiles, they must go into Team A and help make those remaining in Team B smile. Emphasize at the end of the game that happiness is contagious.

MEMORY VERSE: Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

Presentation: The memory verse can be written on a fruit shape

"Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

DISCUSSION: Ask the children about the things that make them happy. Ask them if they have ever been happy when they were hurt or afraid.
STORY: PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON (Acts 16:16-34)
For children who do not have much background in the Bible, it may be wise to give them some information about Paul, e.g.
- Before he became a Christian. He used to hate the Christians, have them beaten and persecuted, and put into prison.
- One day Jesus spoke to Paul and changed his life.
- Paul became a strong Christian man and lived his life telling others about Jesus.

MAIN POINTS:
- Paul was visiting a town telling everyone about Jesus.
- A young slave girl who possessed evil powers met Paul when he was on his way to prayer.
- Using the power of Jesus’ name, Paul cast the evil spirits out of the girl.
- Her owners, who used her evil powers to make money, became very angry and reported Paul and his friend to the city’s chief leaders.
- Paul and his friend were beaten and whipped many times until their backs were bleeding, then thrown into a dirty, horrible prison cell.
- Their hands and feet were chained to the wall and a jailer guarded them day and night.
- Even though they were in pain, uncomfortable and probably hungry, one night about midnight, Paul and Silas began singing and praying to God. They sang songs that told how wonderful God is and how much they loved him.
- Suddenly, God sent a violent earthquake, which shook the jail to its foundations.
- The prison doors flew open and the chains became loose, but they didn’t escape.
- The jailer was so afraid, he wanted to kill himself, thinking his prisoners had escaped.
- Trembling with amazement when he found Paul and Silas, he asked them how he could be saved by their God who gave them so much obvious joy and peace even in the darkness of prison.
- Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus and he was filled with joy as he received salvation. He was baptized to show he was now a follower of Jesus and his whole family were saved too.
- The next day, the chief men of the city let Paul and Silas go free.

STRESS POINTS:
- Paul and Silas could be happy even though things weren’t going well for them.
- The Holy Spirit gave them peace and joy as they trusted God and shared their love for Him with others.
- God stays with us in the bad times as well as the good times.
- Philippians 4:6,7 are good scriptures to close this lesson.

SONGS:
- I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
- Peace is Flowing Like a River
- I’ve Got Peace Like a River
Write Psalm 31:7 in the word bubble. Colour the picture.

The JOY and PEACE of the HOLY SPIRIT within you is activated when you TRUST GOD.
Before Paul became a follower of Christ, he hated Christians so much he would have them beaten and thrown into prison.

One day, Jesus spoke to Paul as he was travelling along the road to Damascus. A brilliant light blinded Paul as Jesus spoke to him. From that day, Paul’s life was dramatically changed.

Paul became a strong Christian leader and lived his life telling others the Good News about God’s kingdom.

Paul was visiting a town, telling everyone about Jesus, when a young slave girl who possessed evil powers followed Paul for days, shouting and causing trouble the whole time. Using the power of the name of Jesus, Paul cast the evil spirits out of her, but her owners were angry as she earned them a lot of money with her fortune-telling.

So Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison.

They were chained to the prison walls, and a jailer guarded them day and night. One night about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, when a violent earthquake shook the jail.

The prison doors flew open and their chains became loose, but they didn’t escape.

The jailer was so amazed, he was trembling as he asked them how he could be saved. He was filled with joy as he received salvation and was baptized. His whole family were saved too.
Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into prison, but nothing could stop them singing and praising God.
Use the code below to find out what Paul wrote at the start of some of his letters.

For example: F+1 means that you go to the alphabet line in the box below, find the letter F and add one more letter ie G to find the first letter of the first word.

Look up 1 Corinthians 1:3 to help you.

F+1 T-2 D-3 G-4 E+1 X-4 Q-2

Z-1 L+2 B+2 N+2 A+4 Z-1 D-1 A+4

G-1 S-1 K+4 K+2 E+2 Q-2 B+2

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z