



# WEEK 2

## FAMILY GUIDE



### THE BIG IDEA

God gives unexplainable joy.

### THE BIBLE

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

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### 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 | Rhinoceros Stomp

- Here's a fun animal fact for you, scientists aren't really sure how rhinoceros' feet work. They have strangely tiny feet for their enormous bodies, and yet they still seem to walk and run and stampede just fine! I wouldn't want a rhino to step on my foot, that's for sure! Now, who wants to pretend to be a stomping rhino?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Blow up balloons with strings tied on them, as well as a marked off area to play in. Split the kids into two teams, and designate a color of balloon for each team. Instruct each person to tie a balloon to their left leg securely. When you start playing music, everyone has sixty seconds to stomp on the opposing team's balloons without pushing and without stepping out of the bounds of the playing area. If anyone steps out, they are automatically out! Once someone steps out of bounds or their balloon is popped, they must step out of the ring. If the time ends before all of one team is out, the team with the most unpopped balloons wins!



### ACTIVITY | Explain It!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get cards from games like "[Don't Say It](#)" or "[Taboo](#)." You can also use an online generator (like [this](#)). The objective is for someone to get everyone else to guess the main word on their card without saying words on the forbidden list.
- 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? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### 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 your family some trendy – or not-so-trendy – dance moves. The sillier you get, the better.*
- 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.

- This week's Big Idea is **God gives unexplainable joy!**

### 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 your family understand how joyfulness is not necessarily tied to underlying conditions. Make sure your family knows God can fill us with joy even when things going on around us are not perfect. Remind them 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.**

### OBJECT LESSON | Joy Fizz

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a display table with water in two large jars or other glass containers that are easy to see from around the room. Fill both jars about halfway with water. Have a bottle of Joy dishwashing soap on hand. Get a few fast-dissolving tablets, like Alka-Seltzer.*
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *If possible, allow older students to participate in the object lesson by pouring in the elements.*
- Happiness and joy seem really similar at times, but there is a difference.
  - This first jar is kind of like happiness. *(Drop the tablet into one jar and watch the water bubble.)*



- **What are a few things that you really want?** When we get something we want, it can make us really happy. But when the excitement gets old, our happiness can go away.
- Now, joy is different. (*Show the kids the bottle of Joy soap.*)
  - Even though it can feel like happiness, joy has a way of bubbling up in us so much more and sticking around for a lot longer because joy comes from God! (*This time, pour the dishwashing soap in the second jar and drop a tablet in as well.*)
- **Now, which one would you prefer?**

### 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? *What does God want us to do about it?*

### ACTIVITY | Explosive Joy Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids drop small dollops of wet liquid watercolor paint onto a piece of paper or paper plate, then use a straw to blow on the paint in different directions to create a "firework." As they add different colors, the fireworks will touch and the colors will blend.*
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Another way you could do this activity is by filling eggs with paint and giving kids a chance to throw them at a large canvas/paper.*
- **God gives unexplainable joy.** But that joy doesn't just stay inside of us. Joy is explosive and it spreads!



### REFLECTION | Joy Giants

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pause for your family to reflect. Ask them to identify one person who they know could use some joy this week. Tell them to come up with ideas on how they can spread joy to that particular person.*
- I can't wait to hear next week about all the ways you changed the world by sharing unexplainable joy with others.

### MEMORY VERSE

- **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways” Declares the Lord’ – Isaiah 55:8**

### 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 your family 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 them to write things that bring them joy. Tell them 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!

