

JOY OPENING SESSION | DAY 2



Key Question	How do I find joy?
Life Application	True joy is found in Jesus.
Bottom Line	Knowing Jesus is worth celebrating.
Basic Truth	I can choose joy by getting to know Jesus better.

DAY 2: Why Do People Love Jesus?

Who makes me feel joyful and loved?

Supplies:

- Bell for tableaus
- Scooter for VESPER
- Loaves of bread and fish
- Blue tablecloth/fabric for water (storm)
- White fabric for Lazarus's linens
- Bucket for well
- Clothing for Jesus

Host: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our second day of camp!

Got some joy to share? Share it everywhere!

Yesterday, we went on a journey to Bethlehem, where we met Jesus – as a baby born in a manger. Jesus coming to Earth changed everything - and people couldn't stop celebrating!

Today, we're going to learn even more about Jesus and why he brings us joy. But first, let's start by playing a game as a group!

Host: I need everyone to come make a big circle. We're going to play a game called "Upstage, Downstage." The concept is easy enough – when I say DOWNSTAGE, you're going to put your head down, and then when I say UPSTAGE, you're going to lift your head and look directly at someone else's face in the circle. If they're not looking back at you as well, you're safe. But if they ARE looking at you, you're both out!

Host: Just remember two things: be sure to go down to the ground dramatically and safely so we know that you're no longer playing and also be sure to change up who you're looking at. Don't look at the same person every time!
Should we give it a few practice rounds?

DAY 2: WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE JESUS?



Play the game, may need uneven number of people in the circle

Host: Awesome work, campers! I loved all of your dramatic falls to the ground. Let's all take a seat with our crews again. Now, I told you all before that we're going to be learning even more about Jesus today-

VESPER: (scooting into the gym) DID YOU JUST SAY JESUS?

Host: Oh, hi VESPER! I did say Jesus, yes! We're learning even more about Jesus today, and how he brought so much joy.

VESPER: Really? That is so awesome! Especially because I spent so much time yesterday thinking about how to celebrate Jesus. And then I realized... all I really know about Jesus is that he was born as a baby. I was born as a baby, too... that doesn't seem too special. People seem so excited about Jesus, and I want to know why! How can I throw the best, most joyful party ever for him, if I don't even know what his whole deal was?

Host: (laughs) You're in luck! The Bible has lots of stories about Jesus and what he did after he was born as a baby. And the Bible is... TRUTH! Can I have my staff come on up to the stage to help us share of those stories? VESPER, why don't you take a seat with the campers so you can learn with them, too!

VESPER does

Host: We're going to be learning about Jesus through a few different tableaux today. Tableaus are frozen scenes that help tell a story without lots of movement! We'll get our staff to move from tableau to tableau by ringing this bell. And at the end of every tableau, we'll do a little call-and-response - like our catchphrase every morning! When I say "Jesus brought joy," I want you all to say, "everywhere he went!" Can we practice that? Jesus brought joy... exactly! Let's get started.

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

Tableau #1 - Feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

bell ring

Host: Our first story about Jesus is the story of him feeding over 5000 people, with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish! The people loved Jesus and wanted to stay with him, so they didn't even go home for dinner. But Jesus loved the people and provided them all with a meal. They learned that Jesus cared about them deeply - even when they were hungry and tired. I think that would fill people with a lot of joy. Jesus brought joy...

DAY 2: WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE JESUS?



Tableau #2 – Calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41)

bell ring

Host: In our next story, Jesus was travelling in a boat with his disciples – who were his close friends and followers – and while he was asleep, a massive storm started! His disciples were so scared, but when they woke Jesus up, Jesus responded calmly and made the storm disappear. One moment the disciples thought they were going to die, and the next moment, Jesus brought complete calm. Can you imagine the joy they would feel, knowing they were safe? Jesus brought joy...

Tableau #3 – Jesus inviting the children to come to him (Matthew 19:13-15)

bell ring

Host: In another story from the Bible, people brought little children to come and see Jesus. When the disciples tried to turn the children away, Jesus invited the children to come to him anyways, because he loved them and wanted them close. I would be pretty joyful if Jesus loved me and invited me to come closer to him! Jesus brought joy...

Tableau #4 – Lazarus raised from the dead (John 11:17-44)

bell ring

Host: Another story in the Bible starts with one of Jesus's friends, Lazarus, dying. Jesus comforted Lazarus's sisters, Martha and Mary, before raising Lazarus from the dead! The people were grieving and heartbroken – but Jesus brought hope where everything felt lost. That kind of hope brings deep joy. Jesus brought joy...

Tableau #5 – Woman at the well (John 4:1-26)

bell ring

Host: In our last story, Jesus came to a woman getting water from a well. She was rejected by others because of her shame about choices that she made. But Jesus showed her that she was loved through his encounter with her, despite her actions. She was so filled with joy from meeting Jesus that she told many people about him, and they were able to meet him and be filled with joy, too. Jesus brought joy...

Host: Let's give our staff a round of applause for those amazing tableaus! From all these stories, we can learn about the kind of person Jesus was. He loved people, provided for them, and gave them many reasons to be joyful. People loved Jesus because He brought hope, love, peace, healing, and joy everywhere He went. Vesper, does that give you a better idea of why Jesus is so worth celebrating?

VESPER: Yes! Now I see how special Jesus was; he loved and provided for everyone, even when they weren't loved by other people. That gives me shivers just thinking about it! Jesus made people very joyful.

DAY 2: WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE JESUS?



Host: That's right. Even when things seemed scary, like with the storm or with Lazarus's death, Jesus brought joy. And when people were left out, like the children or the woman at the well, Jesus brought them joy, too. Jesus's joy is for everyone, no matter what!

VESPER: (jumps up) Wow! Now I REALLY want to celebrate Jesus! Jesus deserves the biggest, most amazing party ever! There's so much to do, I better get started right now. Bye everyone!

(Vesper leaves)

Host: Campers, thank you so much for joining me and VESPER in learning about Jesus and how he brought joy to the people around him. As you travel around camp and spend time in your small groups, I want you to think about this question:

CANVA ANIMATION

Question of the Day: Who makes me feel joyful and loved?

Host: Let's pray together before we move on to our next thing for this morning.

Host: Dear God, thank you for helping us to learn about Jesus this morning. Jesus made people feel loved, because he saw them and helped them when they needed it. Thank you for giving us people in our lives that make us feel joyful and loved, too. Help us to reflect on who those people are, and to be people who make others feel joy. Amen.

Host: Now, before we rotate, let's remember our VISTO Virtues. Everyone say, "VISTOOO!" (Let campers respond with VISTOOO!)

Following our VISTO Virtues is an important thing to do today to help others feel joyful and loved.

1. We are super stars at being respectful and kind. No bullying is allowed.
2. Go Outside with Permission and with a VISTO Staff
3. Keep Your Hands to Yourself and distractions away
4. Dive In! Take part in all of the activities and have fun!