

JOY OPENING SESSION | DAY 4



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 4: What's the Gift?

How can I get to know Jesus better?

Supplies:

- Playbills (real ones)
- Costume
- Paintbrushes
- Scooter for VESPER
- Prodigal Son video ready
- Chairs for staff panel

Host: Good morning, VISTO campers! Can you believe it's already day four of camp this week? We are so pumped that you are all here again today to learn more about joy.

Got some joy to share? Share it everywhere!

Host: We hope you're ready to dive into a big day as we prepare for the Showcase tomorrow. I know I'm really looking forward to seeing you all shine on the VISTO stage! Let's start today with a little game that really gets our brains working.

VESPER: (scooting in, trips (carefully) over her scooter to get off) Did someone say *game*?!

Host: (laughs) Yes, Vesper, I did. Do you want to join us for a game?

VESPER: Absolutely I would!

Gauge how many rounds to add. Add in rounds based on how well campers are doing.

ROUND 1: Everyone is going to walk around the room. When I say ACTION, you're going to walk, and when I say CUT, you're going to stop, as if the scene is being cut; it's finished! Let's just try that out...

ROUND 2: Next, let's switch those two things around, so now when I say ACTION, you're going to stop and when I say CUT, you're going to walk. Let's try that a few times!

DAY 4: WHAT'S THE GIFT?



ROUND 3: Okay, are we ready to make things a bit more challenging? When I say JUMP, you're going to jump once, and when I say DANCE, you're going to do a little dance. Let's add it in!

ROUND 4: Okay, everyone – this is the ultimate test. We're going to switch those two. So now we have JUMP, which means dance, DANCE, which means jump, CUT, which means walk, and ACTION, which means stop! Let's give it a try.

Host: Amazing work, everyone! Was anyone feeling pretty confident by the end in what those mixed-up gestures were? Awesome. Well, as we get started on our fourth day of talking about Jesus, who can tell me something that they've either learned this week or been reminded of about Jesus?

Take a few answers

Host: That's incredible! It's so cool how quickly we can know more about Jesus – and even build a relationship with him. Think about it like when you meet someone new at school or at VISTO. At first, you might not know much about them, but the more time you spend together, the closer you become. You start to learn what they like, dislike, and care about. We're getting to know Jesus in the same way!

VESPER: Oh wow, _Host's name_, you just reminded me of something super important!

VESPER runs behind the curtain and then comes up the stairs with their hands full of gifts

VESPER: When you were talking about knowing someone and learning what they like and dislike, you reminded me of the biggest dilemma I've been having about this party! What do I bring as a gift for Jesus?

Host: What do you mean, Vesper?

VESPER: Well, I know that one of my favourite parts of parties is giving gifts! And I brought a whole bunch of my favourite gifts that I've received to try and get inspiration for what I should give Jesus as a gift.

DAY 4: WHAT'S THE GIFT?



VESPER: (holding up each item as she talks about it) My parents got me tickets to a Broadway show for this summer because I love theatre, and this is the playbill from it! And my brother got me paintbrushes for my birthday last year because he knows I love to paint. And my cousin Vera got me this amazing costume for Christmas because she knows that I want to design costumes for Broadway!

Host: Vesper, those do look like awesome, thoughtful gifts!

VESPER: I know! So, what do I get Jesus that's just as awesome and thoughtful? I feel like I don't know him well enough. I don't have anything amazing to give him!

Host: Hmm, I see what you're thinking, Vesper – when we love someone, we want to show them that love, and gifts are a great way! But I want to tell you something important... Jesus doesn't need us to impress Him with gifts. What He wants most is a friendship with us. He wants us to get to know him, even when we have nothing else to offer him.

Host: There's a story from the Bible that I think can help us understand this point. And the Bible is... TRUTH! Let's all watch this video together and see what we can learn.

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

Play <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs>

VESPER: Wow, it's all starting to make sense! Even though the younger son ran away and made unwise choices, his dad was so happy just to see him again and have him home.

Host: You're right, Vesper! The dad wanted a relationship with his son, no matter what. And when his son came home, he was so full of joy that he threw a party! That's how Jesus feels when we choose to have a relationship with him and get to know him better.

VESPER: It seems like Jesus really does want a relationship with us, no matter what. But... if Jesus isn't physically here, how can I get to know him better?

DAY 4: WHAT'S THE GIFT?



Host: That is an amazing question, Vesper. Why don't we get a few staff members up here so we can ask them that question!

Invite 2-3 staff up, ask these two questions:

1. When did you first start getting to know Jesus?
2. How do you get to know Jesus personally?

Host: Let's give our staff a round of applause to thank them for sharing. There are so many different ways that we can build a relationship with Jesus. In fact, as you travel with your crews today, I want each of you to think about this question:

CANVA ANIMATION

Question of the Day: How can I get to know Jesus better?

VESPER: _Host's name_, I will definitely be thinking about that all day! I know we normally finish our mornings by praying together... can I pray for us?

Host: That would be awesome, Vesper! Go ahead.

VESPER: Dear God, thank you that you love us and want to get to know us, no matter what we do. You don't need any gifts from us; you just want to be in our lives. Please help us learn to get to know you better – in ways that bring us joy! Thank you for VISTO camp so far this week and help us to have an awesome day today. In your name we pray, Amen!