

The Birthday Party

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Romans 12:15 and 1 Samuel 18:1–4

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · folded paper cards · crayons or markers · paper for rockets (optional) · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 16, The Birthday Party (3:43) · youtu.be/rqEIZgbbXKU
MEMORY VERSE	“Rejoice with those who rejoice.” Romans 12:15
BIBLE STORY	Jonathan was happy for his best friend David (1 Samuel 18)
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	Love doesn’t envy. I can be happy for my friends, and when jealousy makes me unkind, I can say sorry.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Ask: “Has a friend ever gotten something you really wanted? How did you feel?” Let a few children answer.
2–6	Watch	Show Ep 16, The Birthday Party (3:43).
6–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–13	Bible	Tell the story of Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1–4).
13–18	Activity	Happy-for-you cards and a rocket countdown (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Why did LJ’s smile disappear when Marcus opened the rocket kit? Have you ever felt that way?

LJ wanted the rocket too, so he felt jealous. Help children name that feeling and know that feeling it isn’t wrong, but letting it make us unkind hurts our friends.

2. Dad once felt jealous of his cousin’s new bike. Why did LJ make a sorry card for Marcus?

Grown-ups feel jealous too. LJ was unkind at the party, so saying sorry helped fix the friendship.

3. Jonathan was happy for David. Who could you be happy for this week?

Help children name a real person: a sibling with a birthday, a friend who won a game, a classmate with something new. Practice saying, “I’m happy for you!”

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15 (WEB)

How to tell it

Set the scene: Jonathan was a prince, the son of King Saul, and one day he would be king. Then a shepherd boy named David defeated Goliath, and everyone cheered for David. Pause and ask: if you were Jonathan, how might you feel? Jonathan could have been jealous, but he wasn't. He loved David like a brother and made a promise to be his friend. He even gave David his own robe, his sword and his bow (1 Samuel 18:1-4). Finish: Jonathan was happy for his friend.

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read 1 Samuel 18:1-9 together. Jonathan was happy for David, but King Saul became jealous (verses 8-9). What did jealousy do to Saul? Connect it to Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 13:4: “Love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy.”

Activity: Happy-for-you cards and a rocket countdown (4 minutes)

- Give each child a folded card. Inside, they write or draw “I'm happy for you!” for a friend or family member.
- Practice in pairs: one child shares good news (“I got a new puppy!”), the other answers, “I'm so happy for you!”
- Do a class rocket countdown together: crouch down, count “three, two, one,” and jump up shouting “Blast off!”
- Optional: build a simple paper rocket in small groups, everyone adding one piece.

A WORD OF CARE

Jealousy can be strongest when children don't have what others have, or when there is a new baby or a sibling who gets attention. Name jealousy as a feeling to bring to God, not a sign that a child is bad. Avoid comparing children's gifts or belongings in class.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, thank You for all the good things You give me and my friends. When I feel jealous, help me be happy for others instead. Help me rejoice with those who rejoice, like Jonathan was happy for David. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Do the rocket countdown, color a balloon card, and say “Rejoice with those who rejoice” with hand motions.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Compare Jonathan and Saul, then list real ways to celebrate a friend’s good news.

Large group

Do the activity in small groups with a leader in each. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch from the rocket kit (2), one question (2), tell Jonathan and David (3), say the verse (2), pray (1).

A note for teachers

The heart of this lesson is that love doesn’t envy: we can be happy for others, and when jealousy makes us unkind, we say sorry. Children should leave knowing how to say, “I’m happy for you!”

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.