

Does God Want Me to Be Happy?

week 1

Slides and Videos are in **bold**.

Props: Use different talk bubble shapes that say, "God said" around your large group space. You could also incorporate the phrases, "be more than happy", "fight temptation", and "be forgiving" in different sizes and fonts.

-SLIDE- Welcome

Start kid's countdown once all classes are present

-SLIDE- Series Intro (2 min)

Hey kids! Welcome to kids church. I'm so glad you could be here today. We're gonna have fun, right? Let's get started.

Raise your hand if you've ever heard someone at church say, "Jesus is awesome!" **(allow kids to answer)** I hope you have because it's true! How about "church is amazing and everyone should come!" **(allow kids to answer)** Right, we all should love saying that because those things are true. Jesus is awesome and church is the best! But, sometimes, people will say things that aren't true. Sometimes people will say things that God would never say. For example, "Do whatever you want just don't get caught." God would never say that!

So, over the next few weeks, we're going to talk about some important things God **has said** to us that will help us in our lives.

-SLIDE- Lesson Intro (2 min)

Today, we're going to talk about happiness. Who likes being happy? **(allow kids to answer)** Me too! But, here's the problem. I don't always feel happy. Some days I feel sad, angry, or scared. But, did you know you can still be happy even if you're having a bad day? You can, if you're looking in the right place. Lasting happiness comes from our relationship with God. We'll talk more about that in a few minutes, but first, let's stand and sing our first song.

-SONG- Jesus Freak (3 min)

That was great! Good job. I think God loves to hear all your voices praising Him. Now, let's sit down and say our big idea and key question together!

-SLIDE- Big Idea: God wants us to be more than happy.

(repeat with kids)

-SLIDE- Key Question: Does that mean God gives us everything we want?

That's a great question, let's listen to our video closely to see if that means God will give us everything we want.

-VIDEO- Happy (4 min)

-SLIDE- Recap (3 min)

So, what did we learn from the video today? Let's review...

- True or False: God said we will always be happy. (False)
- Chasing happiness can lead us down the _____ path. (Wrong)
- Who wants you to be more than happy? (God)

Great job! Feeling happy can be great, but it can go away pretty quickly. Let me give you an example. I love Christmas morning because I get to open presents. It makes me so happy to get what I want! But, one year, my brother got something **better** than me. Suddenly, I wasn't happy anymore. I was jealous.

Now, what happened in that example? I said I was happy on Christmas morning because I got to open presents. Well, the truth is, I was happy until I wanted something else. I became greedy and wanted more and more and more. That's the problem with chasing temporary happiness. It will come and go.

God wants us to find our happiness in him, not our stuff. God wants us to be more than happy. He wants us to have a lasting happiness that doesn't go away based on the situation we're in at the moment. That reminds me of our memory verse, let's stand and say it together.

-SLIDE- Memory Verse: "Delight yourself **(thumbs up)** in the Lord **(point up)**, and he will give you **(hands held out)** the desires of your heart **(hands over heart).**" Psalm 37:4 **(Repeat)**

You see, we only know what will make us happy for a little bit. But, God knows what will make us truly happy. Lasting happiness comes from trusting in God and allowing him to lead us on the best pathway for our lives. If we live for God, we can be more than happy.

-SONG- Happy and you know it (3 min)

Okay, we're ready to answer the Key Question.

-SLIDE- Key question: Does that mean God gives us everything we want?
(allow a few kids to answer).

-SLIDE- The answer: No, God gives us everything we need.
You'll talk more about this in your small groups today. But, before we go, let's say the Big Idea one last time...

-SLIDE- Big Idea: God wants us to be more than happy.
(Have kids repeat)

-SLIDE- Let's Pray (then dismiss)

-SLIDE- Let's go to small groups