

# Smile or Frown

*Read the following statements, allowing students to respond with a smile or a frown.*

1. Mom gave you a triple-scoop ice cream cone for dessert!
2. The ice cream on your triple-scoop cone fell off and splatted on the ground.
3. You just heard that your family is going on a picnic tomorrow!
4. You woke up on picnic day with a stomachache.
5. It rained all day, and you were bored because you couldn't go outside.
6. Dad brought home pizza for dinner!
7. You just got a brand-new toy!
8. You cut your finger while you were taking your new toy out of the package.
9. Your big brother/sister said they'd play a game with you.
10. Your big brother/sister won the game, and you lost.

# Lesson Preparation



## Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- |                                            |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Match* | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have     |

Review Coloring Sheet\*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*



## Lesson Time

You will need the following:

- |                                                                              |                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One printed copy of the Smile or Frown instructions | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson Flip Chart                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed animal for Prayer Time |



## Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- |                                       |                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basket Toss* | <input type="checkbox"/> Football Frenzy*  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game   | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling*     | <input type="checkbox"/> Racetrack         |



## Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the picture provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.



## Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- |                                             |                                           |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Echo Echo*         | <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze*          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt           | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny Voices*    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow the Leader* | <input type="checkbox"/> Sneaky Stickies* |

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



## Song Time

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- ☐ "Philippians 3:20-21"



## Go to Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for Jesus, who humbled himself to take on the likeness of man and endure the cross to save us from sin. Help me as I teach this lesson on joy so my students will understand how Christians can rejoice in all circumstances. Continue to grow our faith and the fruit of the Spirit to make us more like Christ. May we bring glory to you each day as we look forward to our future home in heaven.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the Teacher Digital Resources under **Lesson 191**. Game instructions are also included in the **Appendix** in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an asterisk (\*) are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Review Questions

## K–1<sup>st</sup> Review Questions

1. Which of Paul's letters did we learn about today: Ephesians, Philippians, or Galatians? *Philippians.*
2. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to the Philippians: a prisoner in Rome, on vacation at the beach, or shipwrecked in Malta? *A prisoner in Rome.*
3. Was Paul's letter to the Philippians sad and gloomy or joyful and thankful? *Joyful and thankful.*
4. Paul wanted the believers to study God's Word so they would grow what kind of fruit: fruit of apples, fruit of truth, or fruit of righteousness? *Fruit of righteousness.*
5. What was Paul's purpose in life: to eat good food, to enjoy visiting with friends, or to glorify God? *To glorify God.*
6. Our memory verse, Philippians 3:20–21, says that our citizenship is where? *In heaven.*
7. A believer in Jesus is a citizen of heaven. This means heaven is where believers what? *Belong; will live someday.*
8. Our bodies will be transformed, or changed, in heaven. What will they be like? *Like Jesus' body, perfect, with no sin, sickness, or pain.*
9. On the Flip Chart, in which picture did the kids show joy? *In both pictures, good and bad times.*
10. Where does true joy come from? *Knowing Jesus.*
11. Where does the world think joy is found? *In things like following your dreams, becoming rich, or having lots of nice things.*
12. What is the difference between happiness and joy? *Happiness is a feeling that doesn't last. Joy stays in your heart.*
13. What should be the believer's purpose in life: be happy, please God, or have lots of friends? *Please God.*
14. What gives a believer true joy: knowing Jesus, wearing cool clothes, or being popular? *Knowing Jesus.*
15. What else gives a believer true joy: having the greatest toys, having the promise of heaven, or having a big house? *Having the promise of heaven.*
16. When can a believer have joy: when everything goes right, when he's feeling happy, or when things are good or bad? *When things are good or bad.*

## Pre-K Review Questions

1. Which of Paul's letters did we read from today: Galatians or Philippians? *Philippians.*
2. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to the Philippians: a prisoner in Rome, on vacation at the beach, or shipwrecked in Malta? *A prisoner in Rome.*
3. Even though Paul was a prisoner, was his letter to the Philippians sad and gloomy or joyful and thankful? *Joyful and thankful.*
4. What was so important to Paul that he wanted to do it every day: eat good food, be with friends, or glorify God? *Glorify God.*
5. Our memory verse, Philippians 3:20–21, says that our citizenship is where? *In heaven.*
6. If you trust in Jesus as your Savior, how long will you live in heaven? *Forever.*
7. Our bodies will be transformed, or changed, in heaven. What will our new body be like? *Like Jesus' body, perfect, with no sin, sickness, or pain.*
8. On the Flip Chart, in which picture did the kids show joy? *In both pictures, good and bad times.*
9. Where does the world think joy is found? *In things like following your dreams, becoming rich, or having lots of nice things.*
10. Where does true joy come from? *Knowing Jesus.*
11. Which of these stays in our heart through good times and bad times, joy or happiness? *Joy.*
12. What should believers try to do every day: be happy, please God, or have lots of friends? *Please God.*
13. What else gives a believer true joy: having the greatest toys, having the promise of heaven, or having a big house? *Having the promise of heaven.*
14. When can a believer have joy: when everything goes right, when he's feeling happy, or when things are good or bad? *When things are good or bad.*

# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while he was in prison, most likely during his two-year house arrest in Rome. Despite Paul's circumstances, Philippians is known to be a joyful letter. Although there is exhortation and instruction in the letter, Paul was not writing to the church in Philippi because of a bad report or heretical belief he needed to address. Rather, he was responding with gratitude for a gift they had sent him (Philippians 4:10–18).

Paul's general tone in Philippians was uplifting and encouraging. He began by letting them know that he thanked God for them and prayed for them joyfully. He appreciated their support in the ministry and their work for the Lord (Philippians 1:3–6). He prayed that they would abound with love and be filled with the fruit of righteousness (Philippians 1:10–11), not as if they had been lacking but that it would continue to increase.

Paul wrote of his imprisonment, encouraging the brothers through his words and his tone. He rejoiced in his imprisonment because it had given him ample opportunity to share the gospel. Not only was the Word spreading among the imperial guard and everyone else who would listen, but fellow believers were being emboldened to proclaim the gospel without fear (Philippians 1:12–18). Paul was confident that he would be delivered from his imprisonment and that he would not be ashamed in life or death, knowing that Christ was honored. He spoke to the Philippians as dear friends, explaining that he

desired to depart this life and be with Christ, but he felt the necessity of remaining for the sake of the brothers. He wanted the Philippians to progress in the faith and to rejoice in Christ at his coming (Philippians 1:19–26).

Of course, Paul couldn't let an opportunity pass to include some theology and practical instruction. He encouraged the Philippians to live in a manner worthy of the gospel, a theme throughout Paul's writings. Paul reminded them that they were to strive together for the gospel, not shrinking from opposition or affliction for the sake of Christ (Philippians 1:27–30). He emphasized the need for unity, pointing to the selfless humility of Christ, who humbled himself, though he was God, to take on the form of a servant and become obedient to the point of death. But God exalted him, and every knee will bow to him (Philippians 2:1–11).

For this reason, Paul exhorted the Philippians to be united and selfless, imitating Christ and shining as a light in the world, rejoicing even in the face of sacrifice (Philippians 2:1–17). Paul explained that joy is found in the Lord and the hope of resurrection from the dead. We do not hold confidence in the flesh but strive to reach the goal of the upward call of God. Our citizenship is in heaven, and so we can find joy despite difficult circumstances as we see God working in us for his good pleasure (Philippians 3:1–4:1, 2:13). Finally, he urged them to rejoice in the Lord, pray faithfully, and practice the things of God—what is true, honorable, pure, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:4–8).

## Historical/Apologetics Background

The church at Philippi was established by Paul during his second missionary journey around AD 50. The city was a Roman colony, and many veterans from the Roman army settled there after retiring. When Paul arrived, there was not a synagogue, indicating that there were likely very few Jews. Paul found a group of women at a place of prayer near the river and shared the gospel with them. Lydia was the first convert in Philippi (Acts 16:13–15), and the jailor who guarded Paul and Silas was saved after God miraculously delivered the apostles from their chains (Acts 16:25–34). Paul visited the church again during his third missionary journey.

The Philippians had supported Paul in his ministry since early on (Philippians 4:15–16), and when they had heard of his imprisonment, they sent Epaphroditus to bring him aid. On the way or shortly after arriving, Epaphroditus suffered a near-fatal illness. Epaphroditus had recovered but was concerned that those in Philippi would be worrying about him. So Paul decided to send him back for their mutual comfort. By explaining the issue in his letter (Philippians 2:25–30), he praised Epaphroditus' service and ensured that the Philippians would not think he was being sent back because of unsatisfactory service. Paul also wrote the Philippians to thank them for their gift (Philippians 4:10–18), to encourage unity

(Philippians 2:1–2, 4:2), and to warn against false teachers (Philippians 3:1–4:1).

Although there is little debate to the authorship of this letter, some scholars disagree on when and where it was written. Philippians is clearly a prison epistle; Paul referred to his imprisonment and even discusses his hope for deliverance (Philippians 1:7, 1:12–26). While the traditional view holds that Paul wrote the letter during his first Roman imprisonment, some have suggested it was written from Caesarea or Ephesus. However, in Caesarea, Paul had little hope of release unless he bribed Felix or agreed to stand trial at Jerusalem. Also, that ruling would not be final since Paul could—and did—appeal to Caesar

(Acts 24:22–27). In Philippians, Paul indicated that he expected the result to be final and was optimistic about being released (Philippians 2:23–24). There is even less support for the Ephesus view because there is no indication that Paul was ever imprisoned in Ephesus. Further, there is no reason to reject the traditional view that the prison epistles were written from Rome. On the contrary, the letter mentions the imperial guard (Philippians 1:13) and Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22), details which support the traditional view, and the historical details in the prison epistles match the account recorded in Acts 28.