



**CHEER UP | 9-25-24**

### **LARGE GROUP GAME: Pizz-a Joy (Tortilla Slap)**

After the game in the Hub, we'll watch a funny yet intentional video about joy.

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (45 minutes)**

*Our number one goal tonight is for students to be challenged to bring joy to other people.*

#### **Pure Joy**

As a group, read James 1:2-3. Then, take a few moments to think about a time you faced a trial or went through something difficult.

1. Share what came to mind as you thought about a trial/difficult time in your life.
2. What do you think perseverance means?
3. How have you seen God work through that tough experience?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how joyful do you consider yourself to be?
5. What are three things that bring you joy?
6. Why can it be hard to be joyful? What stops your joy?

#### **Bring Joy**

One of the best ways to find joy is by bringing/showing it to others. It is commonly said that it is better to give than it is to receive – selflessness. It brings us joy when we bring others joy.

Have every person in your group share one way a junior high student can bring joy to others. As a group, make list of the students' responses (on a piece of paper, on a phone...). Then, challenge each student to select one of the responses from the list and put their selection into action. Write their name next to their selection. For example, if Timmy said doing the dishes would bring joy to his parents after they cooked for him, challenge him to actually do that this week! Make sure each student is followed up with by a leader throughout the week and reminded of the challenge that they selected.

### **HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes)**

Depending on group size, you might split into even smaller (shepherding) groups for this. Have each student go around and identify a highlight of their week, a low point from their week and where they have seen God show up in their week. This time is to help them see God around them, to celebrate when something goes well and for them to be supported when they have had a rough week. If you're short on time, let them choose one of those three to share.

#### **PRAY**

Encourage one student to pray for the group, specifically praying for group members to have the courage to invite others and be a light at their school, on their teams, at home, or wherever they go.

#### **GROUP SPACES**

8<sup>th</sup> Girls – Upper Room/Nook  
7<sup>th</sup> Girls – Hub  
6<sup>th</sup> Girls – Waterside  
8<sup>th</sup> Boys – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
7<sup>th</sup> Boys – 4-5yr/K-1 Room  
6<sup>th</sup> Boys – 3yr Room

#### **JAMES 1:2-3**

*2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*