

## **Topic: God is Joy (Lesson 31)**

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verse: “...In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand there are pleasures forever” (Psalms 16:11).

Focus: Joy is the character of God. God is the God of happiness, joy, and pleasure and not a sullen, joyless God. Our joyful God wants us to be joyful people.

Practical Application: Ask the children what some of their favorite things to do with their parents are, for example, going to the beach, hiking, reading books together, playing games, etc. Point out that it is their parents’ presence that causes those things to be enjoyable. Those things would not be as enjoyable if we did them by ourselves. Sometimes our parents may not be happy with us because we displease them. But our parents’ desire is to have an enjoyable time with us always. This is also God’s desire for us.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: “May the glory of Jehovah endure forever! May Jehovah rejoice in His works” (Psalm 104:31).

Focus: Our joyful God delights in and rejoices in the works of His creation because they express God’s glory and His divine characteristics (power and wisdom).

Practical Application: Ask the children what their favorite places are or what their favorite animals are, for example, the Grand Canyon, polar bear, dogs, cats, etc. Ask them how they feel when they go to beautiful places or watch and play with animals. The Word says that God is pleased with what He created such as waters flowing, seasons changing, grass growing, birds nesting, lions roaring, the sea teeming with creatures, natural wonders (Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls), stars, and planets. What a joy it all must be to the Lord! God shares His joy of creation with us. We should appreciate it, care for it and not purposely damage it (litter, hurt or kill creatures, etc.).

### **Advanced:**

Verses: “And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).  
“And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10b).

Focus: God’s greatest joy is with people of all different colors and all different languages. In all of creation we are God’s favorites. God delights in you and me.

Practical Application: No one enjoys being alone. We are the most joyful when we are with people who love us and care for us. Many times we experience joy when someone we love comes into our presence. As God’s people we enjoy God’s presence, which brings us joy. This is why we have joy when we are in children’s meeting or when the saints visit our home. What do you think makes God joyful? When we sing (make a joyful noise) with a joyful heart, when we care for people who are different from us, when we obey our parents and teachers, etc. We should delight in people because God delights in people.