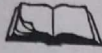


## LESSON 2: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY.



### Lesson scripture

Philippians 2:14-18

"Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life --- in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me."



### Main emphasis

A Spirit-filled Christian knows how to rejoice in all circumstances.



### Memory verse

Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"



### Objectives

The main goal of this lesson is to teach the students that they must be filled with

the Holy Spirit so that they could rejoice no matter what the situation is. At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

1. state two things which we should not do, based on the lesson scripture;
2. state why God wants us to stop complaining and arguing;
3. state what we can do in sad or difficult times in order that we can rejoice.



### Materials to prepare

1. See attached visual aid for the memory verse;
2. See attached computer print-out of stars in a dark sky;
3. Clear glass with water about 3/4 full;
4. Dark water color;
5. Cotton bud;
6. Black art paper;
7. For enrichment activity, see attached instruction sheet entitled "Paper Pinwheels".



## Presentation of the lesson

### Note to the teacher:

Read aloud the lesson scripture at the beginning of this lesson plan. For younger students, read only the underlined portions.

### Lesson proper:

Class, we are now studying the different fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Last week, we studied that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is love. This means that if the Holy Spirit is controlling our hearts, we will be able to love others, and to forgive them when they hurt us.

Today, we are going to learn about another fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is joy.

#### 1. *"Do everything without complaining or arguing" -*

Our lesson scripture first of all tells us that we must do everything without complaining or arguing. What are the things we usually complain about? What are the things we usually argue about? (Write down the students' answers on the board).

Whenever we argue or complain, this is a sign that we are not rejoicing in what we are doing. God is not happy when we do this.

Note that the Bible says we must not argue or complain in everything we do. When the Bible says "everything", it means *all* things. We

should not complain even about just one little thing.

What then should we do whenever we feel like complaining or arguing? We should tell God in prayer. The Bible says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Phil. 4:6)

#### 2. *"So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault" -*

Why does God want us to stop complaining and arguing? It is because He would like us to be blameless and pure in this world. He wants us to be without fault.

(Hold up a glass of water). Look at this glass of water. What color is the water? Nothing. It is very clean and pure.

(Dip a cotton bud in dark water color, and then put it in the water until the dark color spreads). What happened to the water? It became dirty.

God wants us to be pure and blameless, like clean water. He wants us to be without sin or fault. When we argue or complain, we become dirty.

So what do we do in situations like this? We must confess our sins, ask God for forgiveness, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts.



3. "Shine like stars in the universe" -

According to our lesson scripture, God also wants us to shine like stars in the universe. Let us see what this means.

If there are no stars at night, the sky would be totally black, and we would see absolutely nothing. (*Show black art paper*). Look at this black paper. Would you agree with me that this is not nice because we cannot see anything here?

(*Show the picture of the sky with stars at night*). Look at this picture. It is beautiful, because we see the stars.

It is the same way with us. We are in this world, and it is a dark and sinful world. Now, God wants us to shine like stars. How? By rejoicing instead of complaining and arguing.

4. "Be glad and rejoice with me"

Lastly, God wants us to be glad and rejoice no matter what is happening around us. Even if we have problems and difficulties, we can be happy because God is good.

Can you think of times when something bad seems to be happening, and yet you can see the goodness of God? For example, if you are riding a car and it breaks down along the highway, you have to push it to the side. Almost always, there will be people in the area who will help you push your car to the side. In this situation, you can see the

goodness of God because there are always people willing to help. Can you think of other instances like this? (*Ask for one or two illustrations*).

Remember that whenever we face a sad or difficult situation, we can always rejoice when we focus on the goodness of God in that situation.



Life application

Are you going through a sad or difficult situation right now? Would you like to share it with us?

(*The teacher should help the children see the good side of these difficult situations so that they could be thankful to God. This is the time for the teacher to pray with and minister to the students*).



Evaluation

1. What two things should we not do, according to our lesson scripture?
2. Why does God not want us to complain or argue?
3. What can we do in sad or difficult situations so that we could rejoice instead of complaining or arguing?



### Enrichment activity

Make a pinwheel. See attached instructions.

Tell the students that the shape of the pinwheel is similar to the shape of a star, and therefore, whenever we see it, we should also remember that we should shine like a star in the universe.



### Offering

Ask one child to lead the prayer.



### Closing

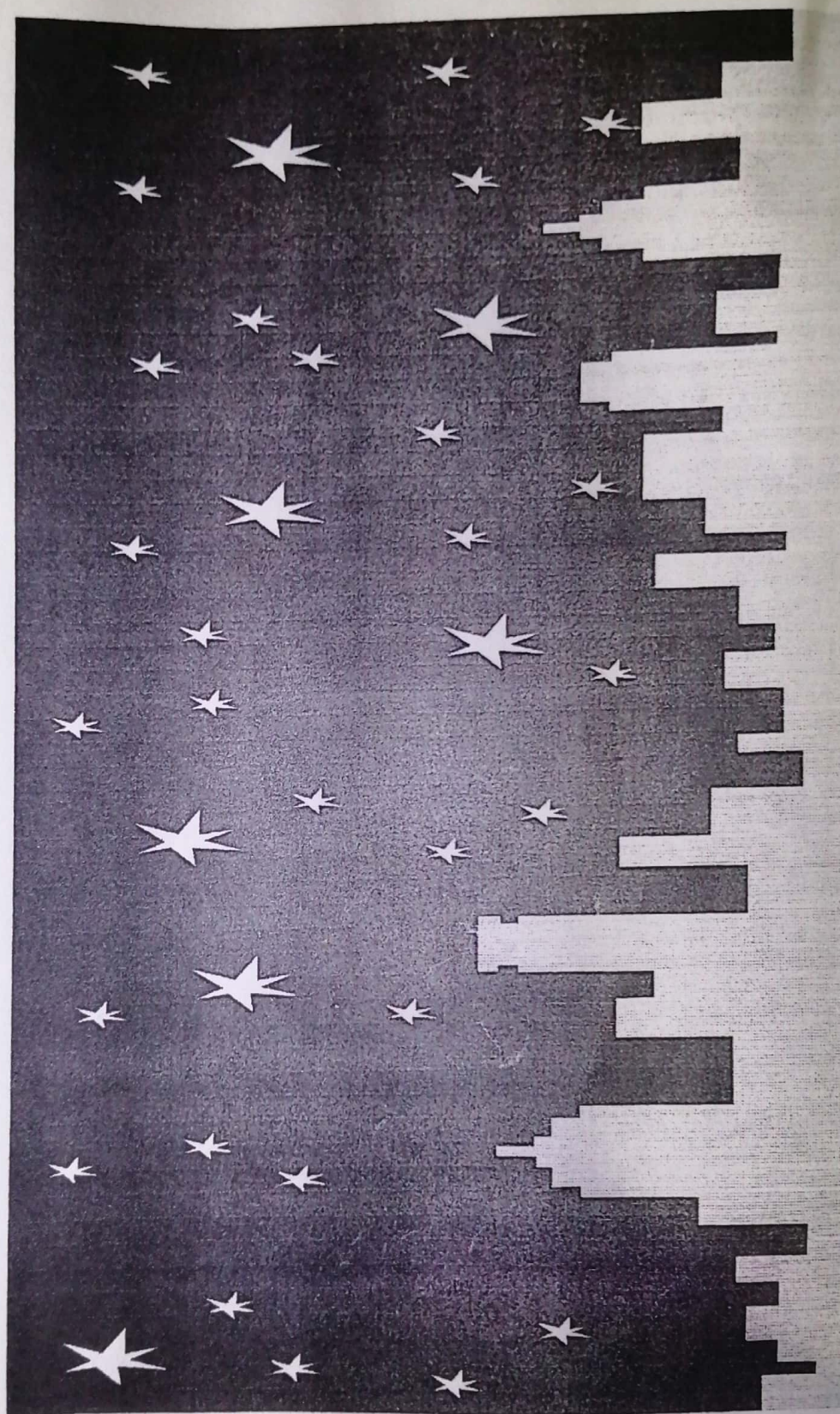
Close in prayer, thanking God for today's lesson on rejoicing and asking for His wisdom so that we can apply the lesson to our lives.



### Your notes




## STARS AT NIGHT



Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the  
Lord always. I  
will say it  
again: Rejoice!

A black and white illustration of two stylized human figures jumping joyfully. The figure on the left is in a jumping pose with arms and legs spread wide. The figure on the right is also jumping, with one leg bent and arms outstretched. Several musical notes are scattered around the figures, suggesting a joyful or musical theme.



# PAPER PINWHEELS

It's fun to make a toy that uses God's creative power. Here's one that is powered by his moving air!



## WHAT YOU NEED:

- The pinwheel on this page
- A long straight pin
- A pencil with an eraser
- Crayons or colored markers
- Glue

## WHAT TO DO:

Cut along the straight dark lines but **be careful not to cut** into the small center circle.

Color both front and back sides of the pinwheel.

Find each corner that has a dot. (There are four of them!)

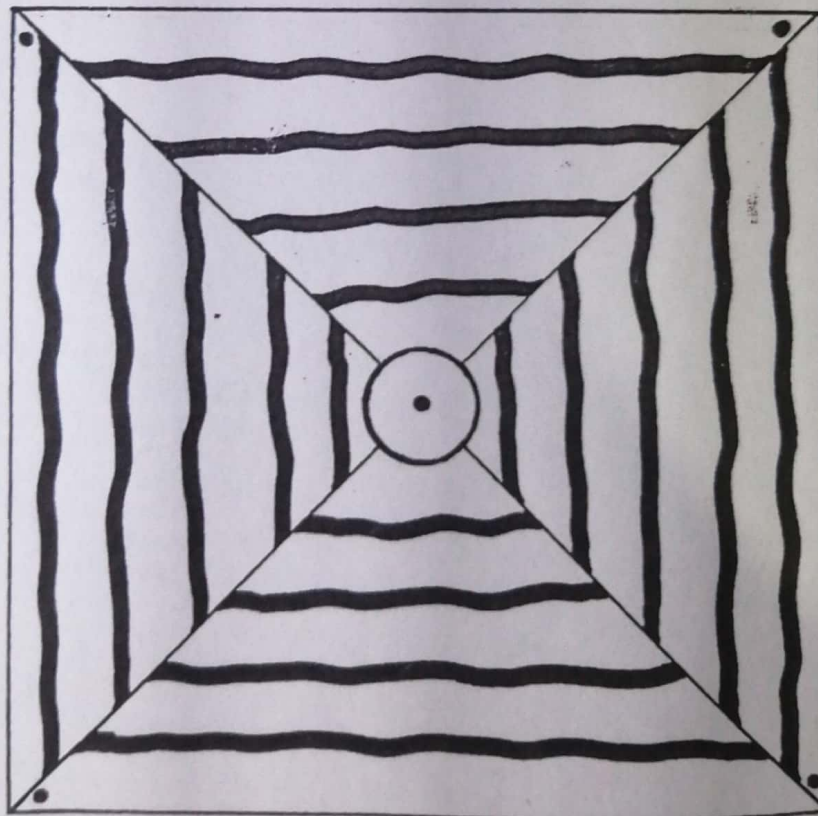
Bend the paper to glue each dotted corner to the center dot of the pinwheel.

Now **poke** a straight pin through the center dot (and the four glued corners)

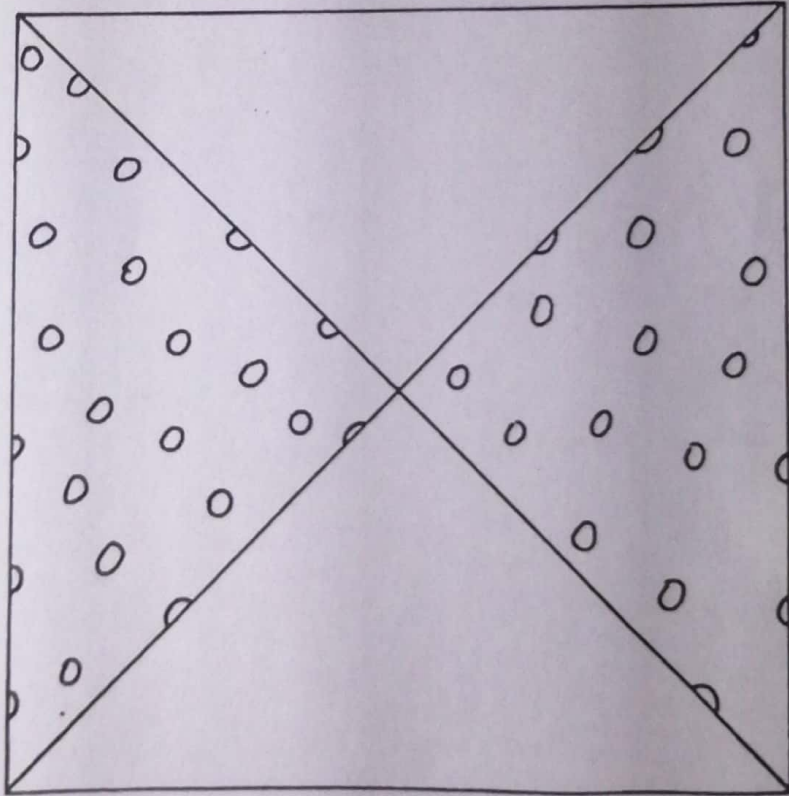
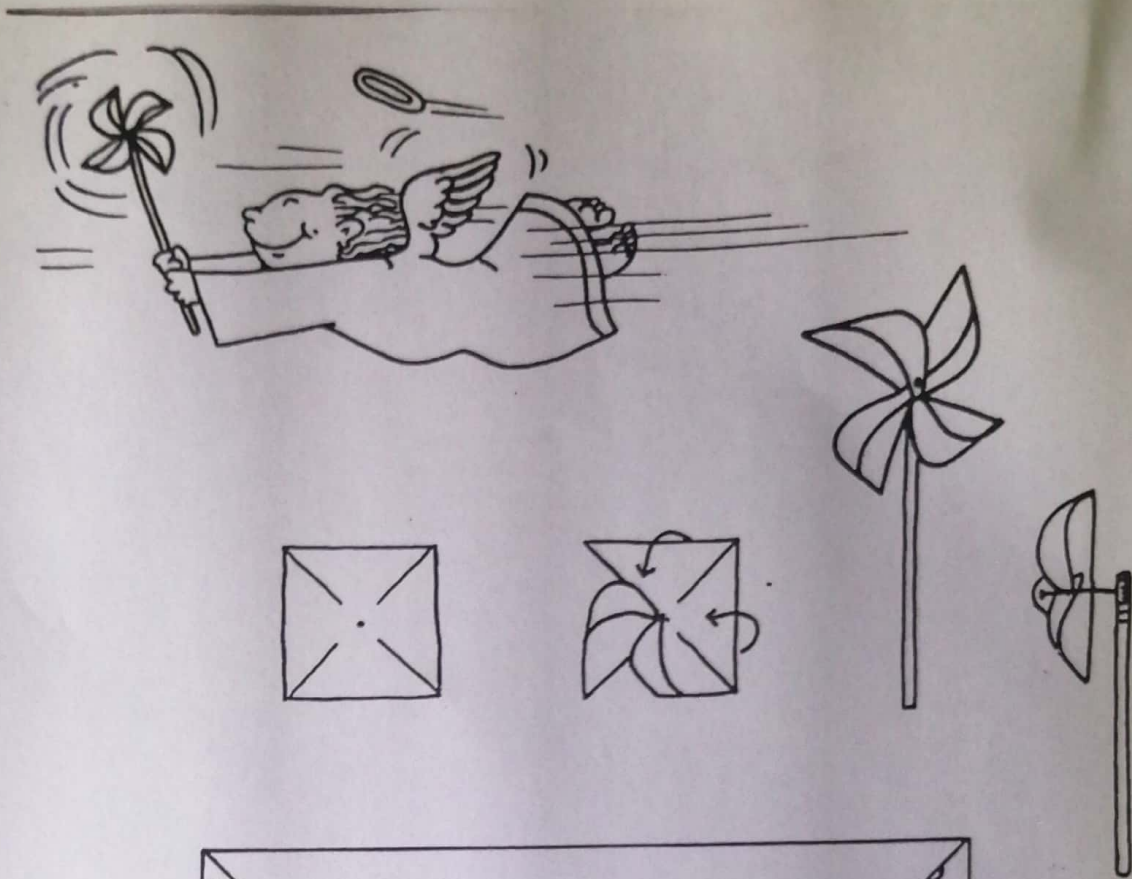
and **attach** the pin to the eraser of a pencil.

Blow on the paper wheel to test.

Hold high over your head and run into the wind or attach to the handlebars of your bicycle!



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