



We All Belong

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Danielle is a special education instructional coach, master trainer, and parent of two children with autism. We All Belong LLC is committed to making churches and faith-based organizations more inclusive by providing training and resources, Learn more at www.WeAllBelongLLC.com

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FROM THE BIBLE



The following is meant to provide context for the activities that follow. Bible stories are condensed and given visuals to help convey meaning. Bible verses that serve as a basis for the unit are presented in a visual way.

Today's Lesson is based on:

Acts 16: 16-26

This is the story of Paul and Silas going to prison. When they were wrongfully imprisoned, they had many reasons to be upset or sad, but instead they worshiped God and the walls of the prison came down.

Key Takeaway:

There will always be tough things, focus on finding the joy every situation.

Relevant Talking Points

1. Discuss the difference between joy and how it differs from happiness. Joy is a deep, lasting feeling that comes from knowing God.
2. Share related Bible stories such as David finding joy in God despite facing challenges (Psalm 30:5)
3. Highlight the importance of gratitude in cultivating joy. Encourage kids do think of things they are thankful for, even in difficult situations.
4. Teach kids to bring their worries and troubles to God in prayer and how that can help with finding joy.
5. Share simple actions they can take to choose joy, such as smiling at someone, helping a friend, or engaging in a favorite hobby.
6. Fun Bonus activity: create “happy jars” where kids can write down happy memories that bring them joy.

Discussion questions:

1. What is something that brings you joy?
2. How can we spread joy to others around us? Can you think of a time when you made someone else smile?
3. Why is it important to be part of a community or church when we’re going through hard times?
4. If you face a hard time in the future, what’s one thing you can do to remind yourself to choose joy?
5. What are some goals and dreams you have that bring you joy? How can you work towards them, even if things get tough?

Visuals to Support Q & A



The Bible Story

Bible stories are designed to be a condensed version of a larger story with emphasis on the big idea. Stories may also sometimes be a bible verse presented in a visual way to help individuals understand what they are reading.

Assembly

1. Print all pages
 2. Cut along the bold line down the center of the page.
 3. Laminate each page
 4. Place a hole punch in the upper corner
 5. Use a book ring to hold the pages together.
 6. Read as much as you like!
-

Paul and Silas Choose Joy



Based on:
Acts 16:16-26

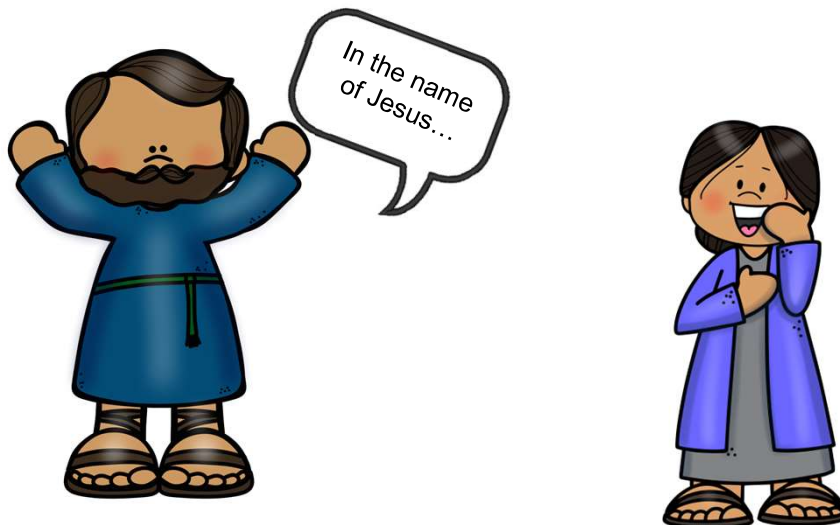
Created by: We All Belong LLC



Paul and Silas were walking down the street looking for a place to pray.



A woman started following them and shouting.



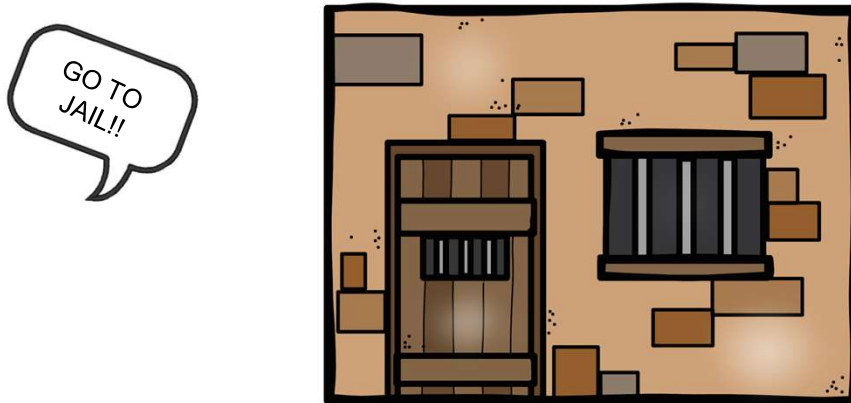
Paul healed her.



Some businessmen in the city were upset that she was healed, so they created untrue stories about Paul and Silas.

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5



A crowd hurt them and then a judge sent them to prison.

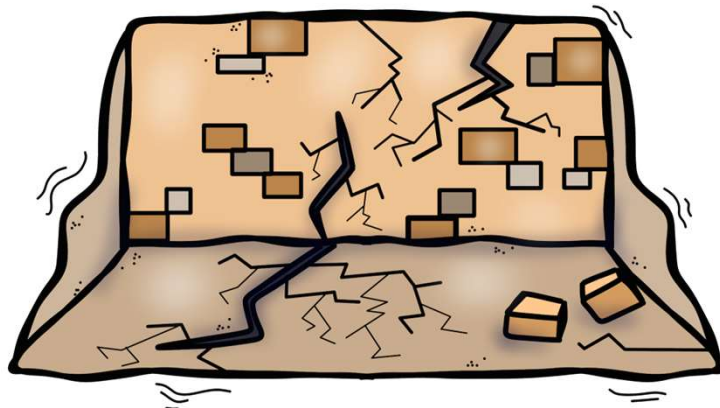
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6



In prison, Paul and Silas trusted God, so they prayed and sang to God.

EARTHQUAKE!!!!



As they sang, suddenly the walls began to shake.



The prison shook so hard that the doors opened and their chains fell off.



Even when something bad happened, Paul and Silas were able to choose to be joyful because they trusted God.

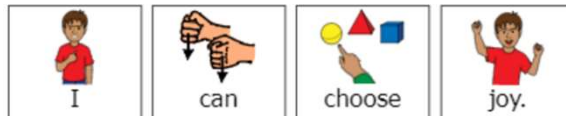
Interactive book

Assembly

1. Print all pages
2. Cut each page along the bolded line (**except the 2nd to last page**)
3. On the last page, cut out individual pieces
4. Laminate all pages and the individual pieces from the last page
5. For individual small pieces:
 1. Place hard velcro on the back of images
 2. Place soft velcro on the where it says “velcro”
 3. Place soft velcro on individual pages in the small box
6. Finally, bind all pages with binding machine or single hole punch and book rings.



I Can Choose Joy



Based on:
Acts 16: 23-25

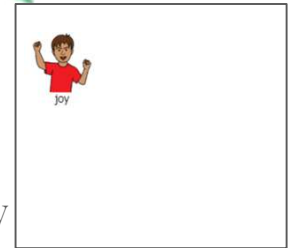
Created By: We All Belong LLC



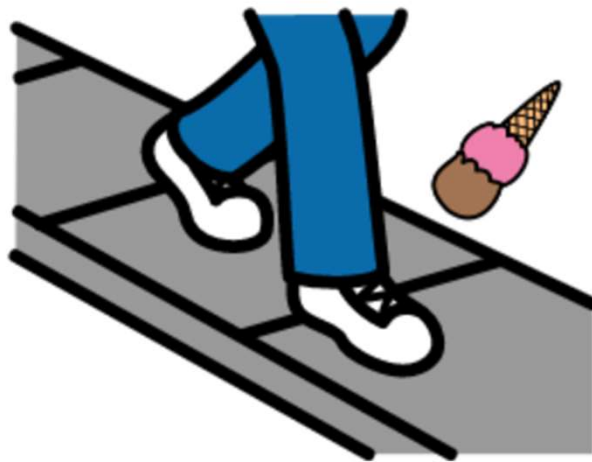
With Jesus,



Find joy



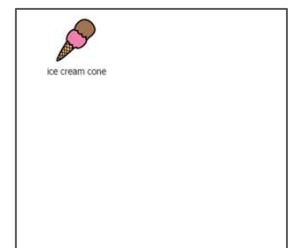
1



When I drop my ice cream,



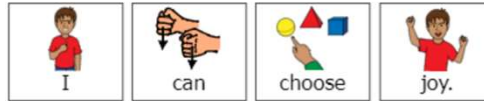
Find ice cream



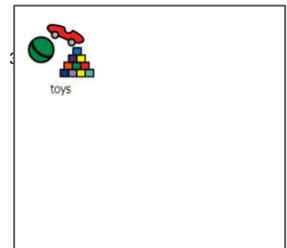
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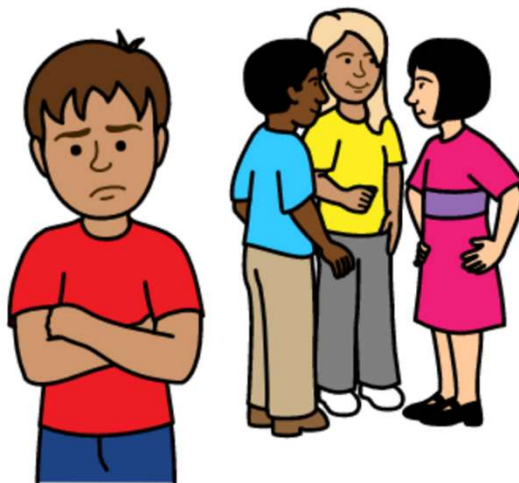
When I've lost my favorite toy,



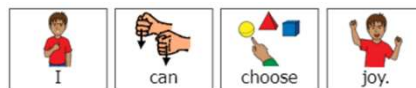
Find toys.



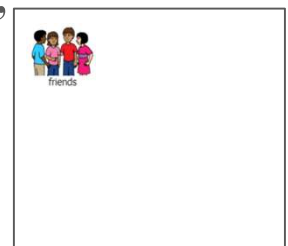
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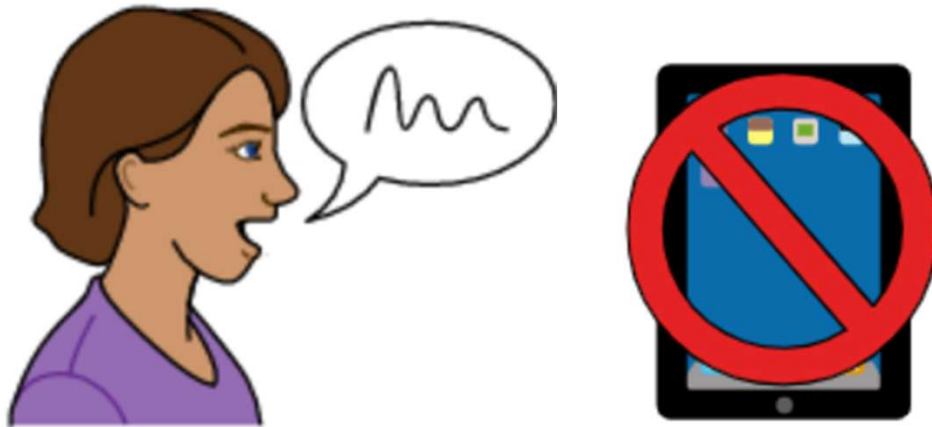
When my friend won't play with me,



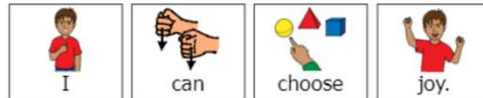
Find friends.



4



When my mom says, “No more ipad,”



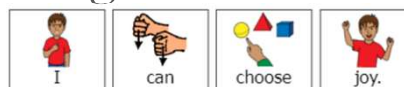
Find ipad.



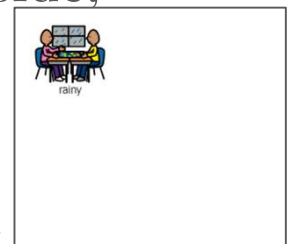
5



When it’s raining and I want to go outside,



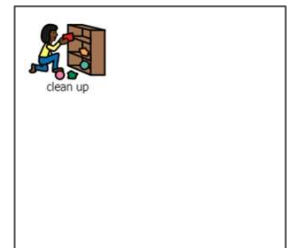
Find rainy day.



6



When it's time to clean up, but I want to play,

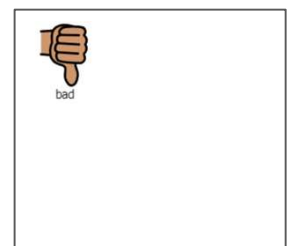
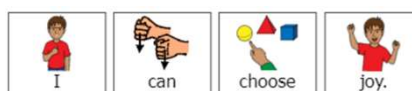


Find clean up.

7

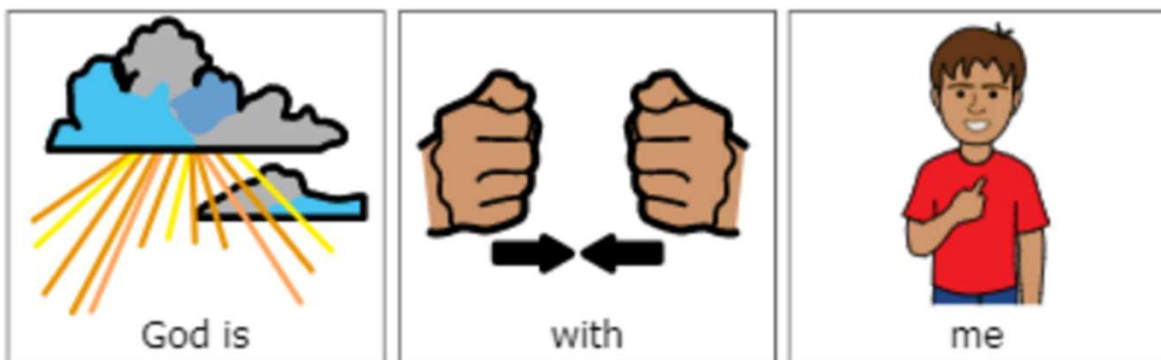


When bad things happen,



Find bad.

8

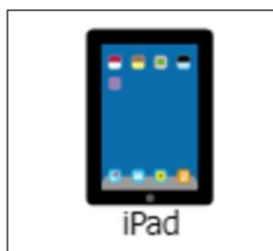
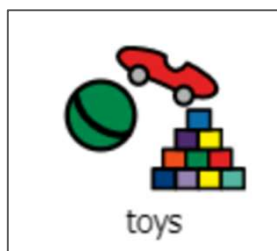


I can always be joyful because God is with me.

----- Do Not Cut-----



Cut these individual images and place velcro on previous page



Prayer



God



Thank you for giving me joy. Some days will be bad, but because you are with



me, I can have joy. When something happens that could make me feel sad or



angry, please help me to remember to choose joy instead.

Amen

Adapted Memory Verse



These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you,



and that your joy may be full.

John 15:11 NKJV

Interactive Activities

These activities allow a child or individual with a disability to interact with them repeatedly.



Assembly

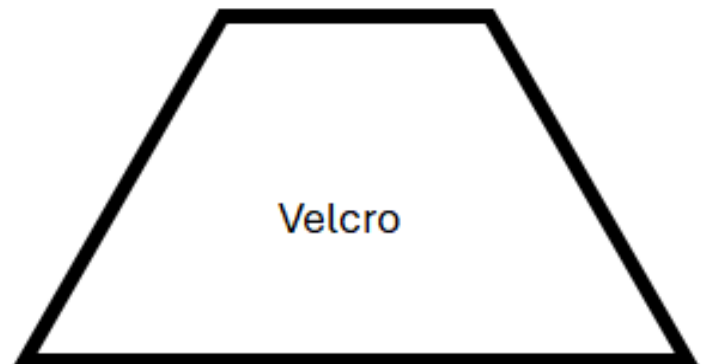
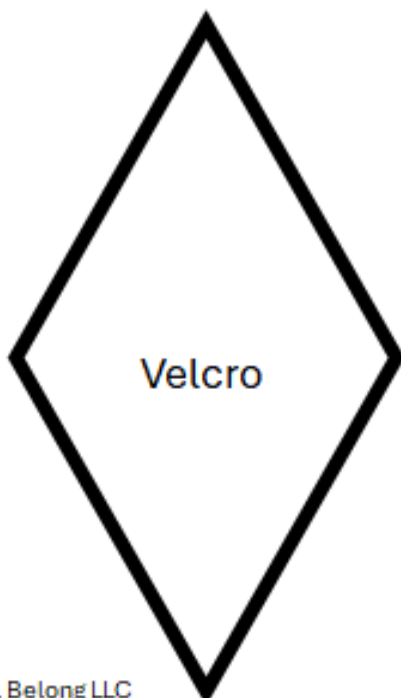
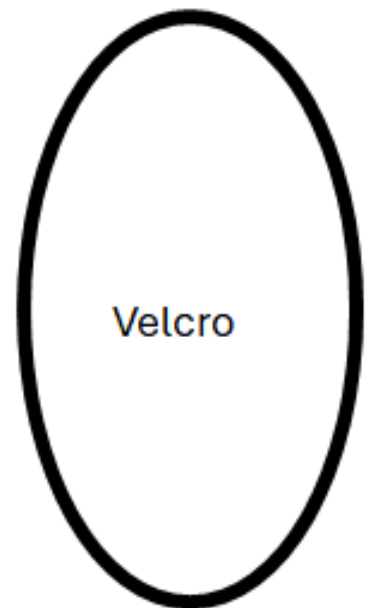
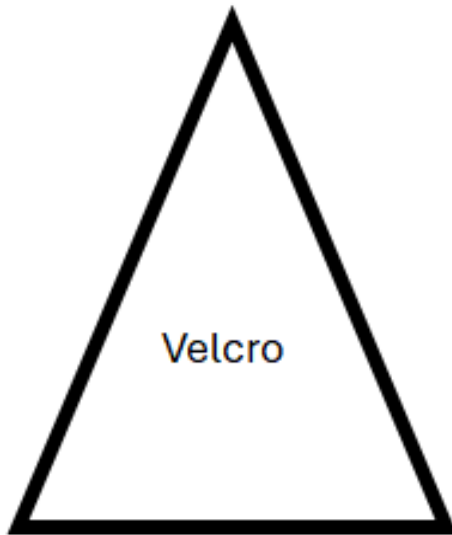
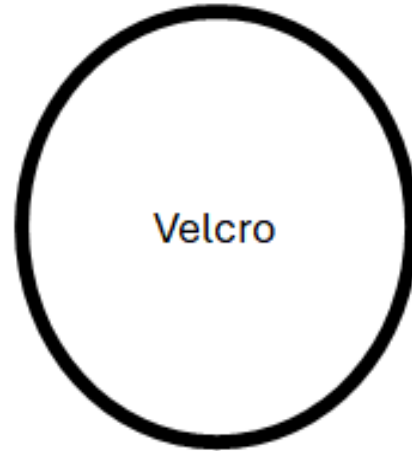
You will need

- A laminator
- Sticky Back Velcro

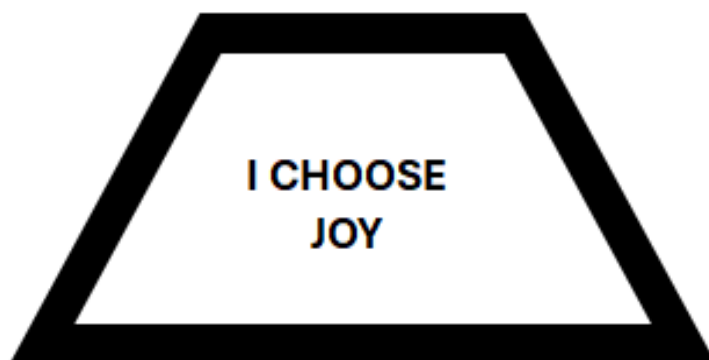
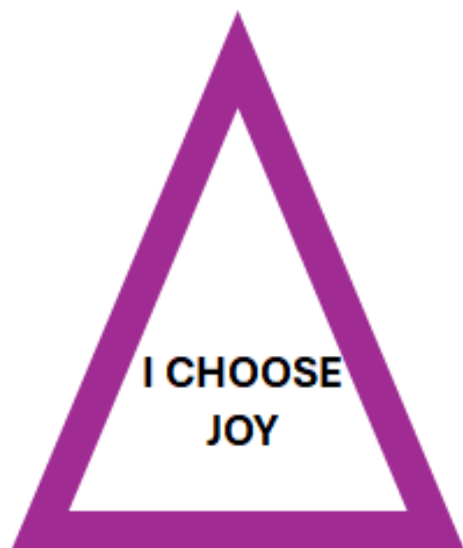
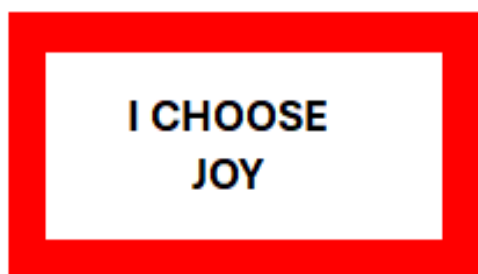
Directions:

1. Print all materials
2. Follow directions listed on top of page *If no direction is listed, This page is to be laminated as is.
3. Velcro should be placed on top of “dots” or the word “Velcro” as well as on the back of corresponding picture

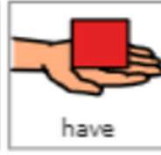
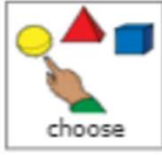
Match the shapes



Cut, Laminate, and place Velcro on the back of these images



Match the Joyful Kids



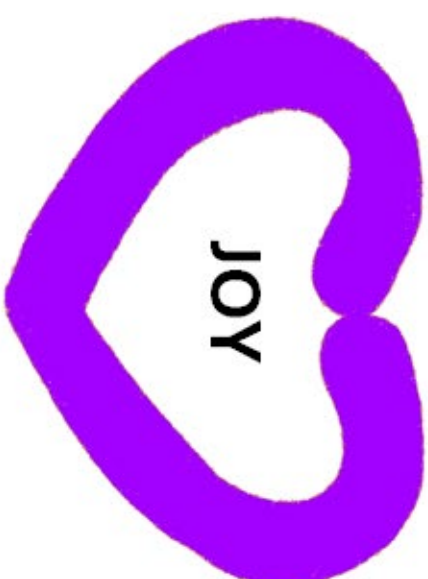
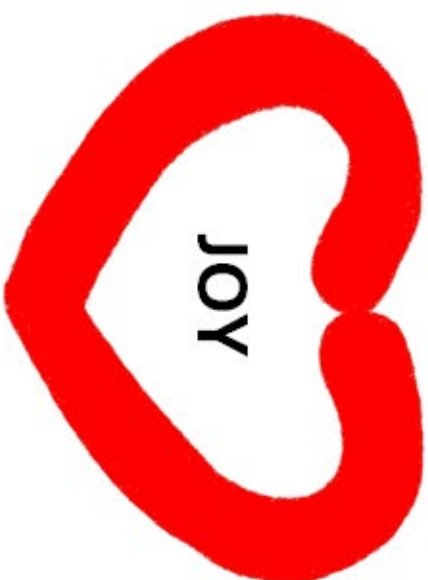
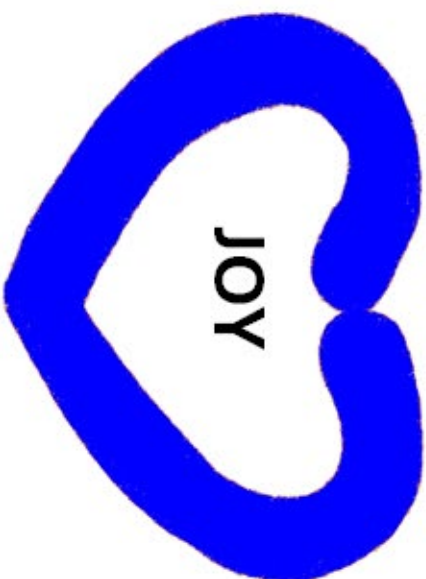
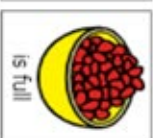
Cut out individual images and use for matching.

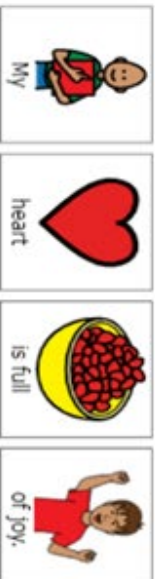


Playdoh Mats

Laminate and Enjoy







My



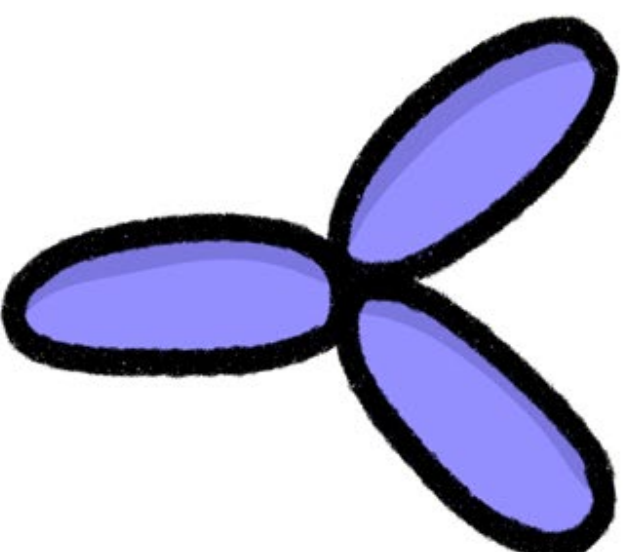
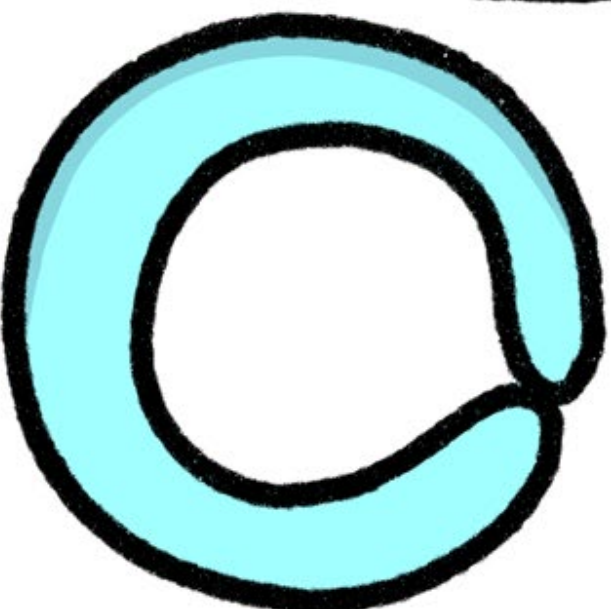
heart



is full

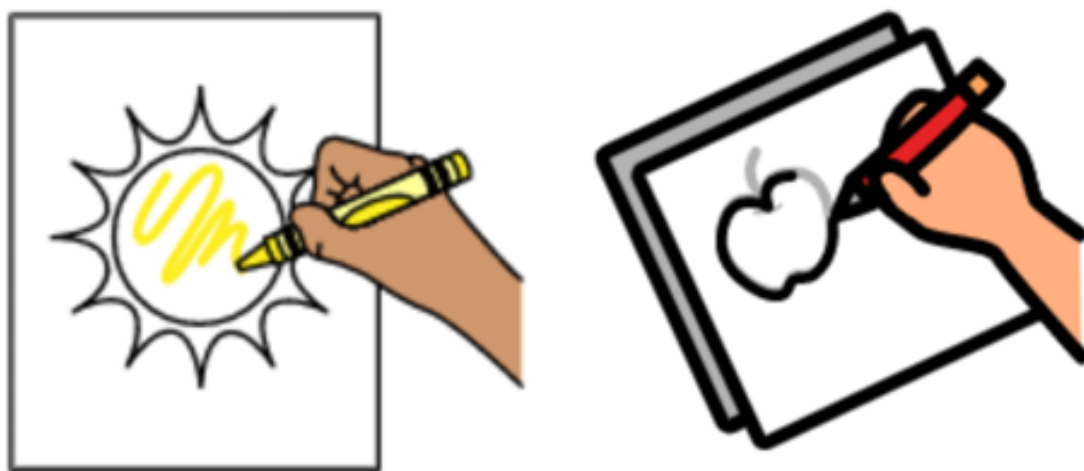


of joy.

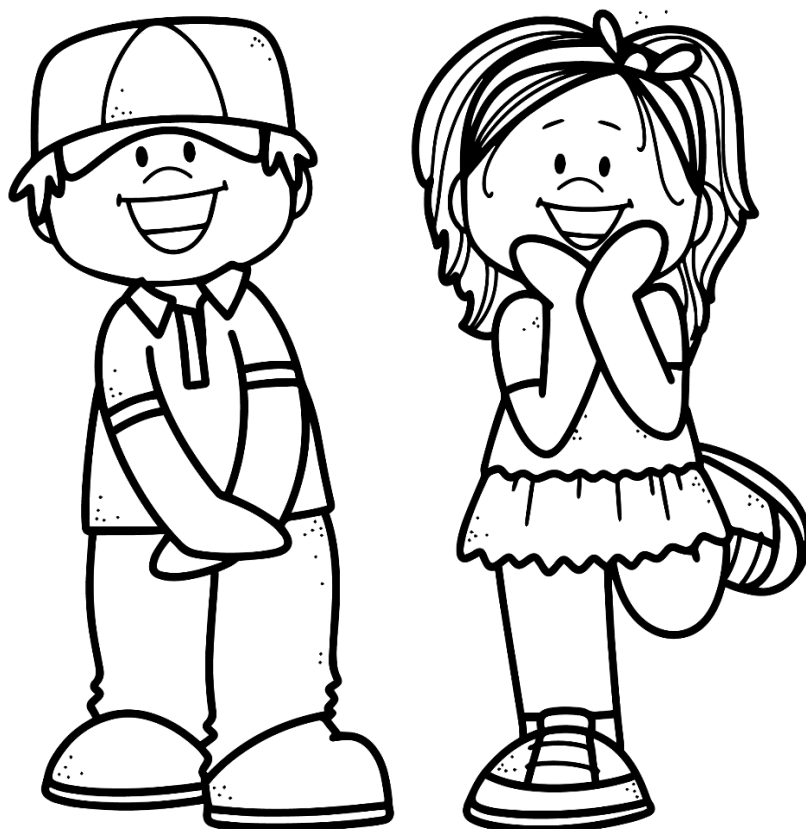


Fine Motor Activities

These activities are designed for coloring or tracing.



I Choose Joy



JOY

Color By Number

My Heart is Full of Joy

1 = red	2 = orange	3 = yellow	4 = blue
5 = green	6 = purple	7 = brown	8 = black



Trace the Memory Verse Below.

Adapted Memory Verse

      
These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you,
  
and that your joy may be full.

John 15:11 NKJV

These things I have
spoken to you, that
my joy may remain in
you, and that your joy
may be full.

John 15:11 NKJV