

GOD OFFERS JOY INSTEAD OF EMPTINESS

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS JOY INSTEAD OF EMPTINESS

Psalms 16:11; Romans 5:1-2; 14:17; 15:13; 1 Peter 1:8-9

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:11

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

BIG IDEAS

- Sin makes us empty.
- Jesus is the priceless treasure every heart longs for.
- We find joy when Jesus becomes our joy.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 13:44-46

True joy can only come from knowing Christ. Any other joy is not eternal and does not really bring peace. The parables of the hidden treasure and the valuable pearl teach us that true treasure is found in the kingdom of Heaven. Only there can we truly be satisfied.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus



Every child should:

- See life in light of God's promises to those who are in Jesus



Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

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A PRICELESS TREASURE

Hide several special treats or items in your yard or go to your local playground or park and hide them. Take your child on a treasure hunt. After the treasure is found, remind him or her that our greatest treasure is Jesus.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Matthew 13:44-46.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

We often look for happiness and joy in things that cannot really bring us happiness. Our hearts long for the void that is in them to be filled, but we are blinded by our sin. In our sin, we seek to fill our void with worldly things that will eventually disappoint us. During Jesus' ministry on earth, He told two stories about our hunt for priceless treasure. The first story is of a man who found hidden treasure in a field. He covered the treasure and then sold everything he owned so he could buy the field and have it forever. The second story is about a merchant who found a pearl of great value. He did not keep looking for other pearls. Instead, he sold all that he had to buy the pearl and have it forever. Jesus is like the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value. He is our priceless treasure. He is the treasure that our hearts long for but don't realize. He is worth all that we have because He is eternal. The joy that He brings us is everlasting. His joy is real and complete and is with us in every circumstance.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What did the man who found the hidden treasure do? (He sold all that he had and bought the field.)
- What did the merchant who found the pearl of great value do? (He sold all that He had and bought the pearl.)
- Who is our priceless treasure? (Jesus is the priceless treasure we all long for.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize John 15:11 by playing a game of freeze tag with your child. The person who is frozen gets to say the verse out loud.



DO

Hide several objects in your house and play a game of hide-n-seek with your child. Every time your child finds an object, remind him or her that Jesus is our priceless treasure.



FEEL

Share with your child about some of the things that you sought to bring you joy instead of Jesus. Remind your child that only Jesus can bring true lasting joy.



WANT

Spend some time this week praying and thanking God for giving us the priceless treasure that is Jesus.