

BIG TRUTH: LIFE IS JOYFUL

Psalm 4:6-8; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 13:44; John 15:5-11; Romans 14:17; 15:13

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 16:11

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

BIG IDEAS

- We were created for joy in this life.
- Joy is only found in God alone.
- Joy is greater than our circumstances.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 5:17-42

Jesus' apostles performed many miracles. Their miracles caused the high priests and council of priests to become angry. They arrested the apostles, placed them in prison, beat them, and then released them. The apostles left the prison rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus. We can find joy in all circumstances when we know Jesus.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- Life comes from God

**Every child should feel:**

- Responsible to use the life that God has given them for His glory

**Every child should:**

- Find joy in the life that God has given them

**Every child should want:**

- To submit their lives to God's plans

JOYOUS LIVING

Plan a special “joy” date with your child this week. Let your child help you plan decorations for the “joy” date and fun activities to do before and after the date. Remind your child that we were created to have joy in this life. We can have joy when we repent and believe in Jesus.

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

Acts 5:17-42.

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

Jesus’ chosen disciples or Apostles were faithful to proclaim His gospel after His ascension into heaven. They preached the good news about Jesus to many people and many people believed in Jesus as their Savior. The high priest became angry that the Apostles were teaching others about Jesus. He had the Apostles arrested and placed in prison. That night an angel of the Lord appeared to them and set them free, telling them to go out into the temple and preach the gospel. The Apostles did exactly what the angel of the Lord told them to do. The high priest called together a council to determine what to do about Jesus’ Apostles, but when they sent to have them brought from the prison, they could not be found. The Apostles’ disappearance perplexed the high priest and the council. When the high priest realized they were free and preaching the gospel, he grew angry and wanted to have them put to death. Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, persuaded the high priest and the council to let the men live. He persuaded them to just wait and see if the men’s plan to reach people with the gospel would prevail or not. If it did prevail, everyone would know they were from God. If they failed, they would know they were not from God. The high priest and council agreed to Gamaliel’s plan, but the high priest had the Apostles beaten before they were set free. The Apostles did not grow afraid or stop preaching the gospel. They left rejoicing that they were found worthy enough to suffer for the name of Jesus. They found joy because of who Jesus is and what He has done. We too can have joy in every circumstance if we know Jesus. We can rejoice in all things because Jesus does not change and He controls all things.

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

- Why were the Apostles thrown into prison the first time? (They were preaching the gospel and people were believing in Jesus.)
- Why did the Apostles rejoice after they were beaten? (They were happy that they were considered worthy enough to suffer for Jesus.)
- How can we have joy in all things? (When we know God, we can have joy because of who He is and what He has done.)



As a family, memorize Psalm 16:11. Talk with your child about how knowing God can bring us joy.

Help your child create his or her own “Joy” shaker. Use an empty cardboard tube, masking tape, dry beans, and different decorations. Help your child cover one end of the tube with masking tape. Pour some of the dry beans into the open end of the tube. Cover the open end with masking tape and then decorate the tube. Talk with your child about how we can have joy in every situation because of God.

Share with your child ways that you find joy in all circumstances. Share a time when you were in a difficult situation, but still found joy in God.

Help your child create a collage of things that bring him or her joy. Use old magazines or newspapers to create the collage. Talk with your child about how we were created to have joy in this life.

Spend time with your child this week praying and thanking God for giving us joy and helping us overcome any situation.