

GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY
IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE

Psalm 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

- God is the giver of every good and joyful gift.
- True joy is only found in God.
- Joy in the Lord produces joyful obedience.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 13:44-46; JOHN 15:11

The world offers us many things that seem to bring joy, but nothing brings true joy like what God offers us through His Son, Jesus. This truth is revealed in the story of the man finding a priceless treasure in a field and selling everything he has to buy the field and the merchant discovering a priceless pearl and giving everything he has to keep the pearl. God's kingdom is our priceless treasure. It is worth everything we have.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

God Himself is joy. Joy is not just an attribute of God. All joy is found in Him. Psalm 16:11 says, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." We were created to delight and find joy in God. There is always more about God to know, see, experience, and love than we could ever imagine. Sin separated us from God and also from the joy that comes from knowing Him. In the midst of that, God gives us faith to restore our relationship with Him and to know Him again. Not only is God the truest source of joy, but He gives us faith so we can have access to that joy.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- Joy is found in the presence of God
- Faith is a gift from God to hope and trust in Him



Every child should feel:

- The difference between a temporary happiness and a lasting joy



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize John 3:16
- Recognize things that make them happy, but talk about God as the source of joy



Every child should want to:

- To one day have faith in Jesus to save them from their sins
- To experience true joy in Christ alone

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

GOD IS JOY AND OUR JOY
IS FOUND IN HIM ALONE**OUR TRUE TREASURE**

Hide a special surprise somewhere in your house or outside in your yard. Tell your children about the special surprise and tell them if they find it they can keep it. Give them clues to help them find the surprise, but they must give you something for each clue. God is our true treasure and our real source of joy. When we find Him, we find true joy and we give up everything to follow Him.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Matthew 13:44.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a hidden treasure in a field. He tells the parable or story of a man who discovers the treasure and then sells everything he has in order to gain the treasure. Finding God is like a great treasure for those who repent and believe. They give up everything, even their very lives in order to know God and to be with Him. When they do, they find true joy that is unlike any other happiness or joy.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did the man discover in the field? (He found a hidden treasure.)
- What did the man do when he discovered the hidden treasure? (He sold everything he had and bought the field so he could keep the treasure.)



Help your child memorize John 15:11 by playing beanbag toss with them. Every time they hit a target, they can recite the verse aloud.



Help your child make a list of the things that make them happy or bring them joy. Talk about what they would give up in order to do the thing that makes them happy or keep the thing that brings them joy. Talk about how those who repent and believe in Jesus find a great treasure that brings them great joy.



In a large container of sand or dirt, hide a special surprise. Tell your child that the surprise is in the container and they have to find it. When they find the surprise they will receive a special reward. The reward can be a special snack or small toy or extra book read at naptime or bedtime. Talk with them about how finding God is like finding a great treasure. It brings great joy and happiness to us.



Sing "Joy, Joy, Joy" and other praise songs about joy in the Lord with your child. Talk with them about how real joy is found in God. Tell them the ways that knowing and following God bring you joy. Share with them your own experiences.