

**BIG TRUTH: GOD IS JOY**

Psalm 16:11; Ecclesiastes 2:6; Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 30:5; Isaiah 29:19; Jeremiah 31:13-14; Habakkuk 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; John 15:11

**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**

- True joy is only found in God.
- Joy in the Lord produces joyful obedience.
- Jesus is our model for a joyful life.

**BIBLE STORY: JOHN 15**

True joy is found when we are connected to Jesus. When we abide in Him, we will have eternal joy that isn't dependent upon our situation. Jesus gives us an example to follow.

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS**

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

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

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.

**Every child should be able to:**

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else a truth about God each week.

**Every child should feel:**

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.

**Every child should want:**

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

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.

**TRUE JOY**

Create a scavenger hunt in which your child hunts for things that are imposters, such as toy food, fake trees, etc. When they finish, talk with your child about how these things are fake. Tell them that the joy the world offers is fake, but God's joy is true.

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

John 15.

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

Joy can be defined as a feeling or emotion of delight or happiness. When the world defines joy, they define it as something that depends upon our situation. When God defines it, it doesn't depend upon our situation. It depends upon Jesus. In John 15, Jesus taught that if we wanted to have real joy, we have to be connected to Him. He is the true vine, or source of everything. When we are connected to Him, we can have life and joy always. In order to be connected to Him, we have to know Him and be in a relationship with Him. When we are in a relationship with Him, we are filled with an inner joy that cannot be taken away. This means that no matter what we face in this world, we can always have joy. How can this be? The joy that Jesus gives is based on the hope He offers us. We have hope in an eternal life, or a life after this one. So when life here is bad, we know this isn't it. We know there's something better coming and because of that, we can have joy no matter what our situation is. Jesus taught us how to live this way in this world. When He was on the earth, He faced the hardest of situations, but He still had joy because He was living for eternity. We can follow His example and live in this life for our eternity. When we do this, we will have joy always.

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

- Where does true joy come from? (It comes from knowing Jesus and being known by Him.)
- How can we have joy always? (By being in a relationship with Jesus and living for our eternity.)



As a family, memorize Psalm 16:11 by using finger paint to write the verse on paper and saying it out loud.



Use sugar cookie dough to create joy cookies. Make heart-shaped cookies or cookies shaped like the sun. Help your child decorate these cookies and deliver them to your neighbors. Tell your child that true joy is found in knowing Jesus.



Share with your child some of the ways that you find joy. Ask your child to share some of the ways he or she finds joy. Remind them that our true joy is found in Jesus.



Spend time praying with your child this week. Thank God for giving us true, everlasting joy in Jesus.