



JOY



Finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way

WEEK FOUR
K-5TH

READ LUKE 2:10

DAY 1

When the angel appeared to those shepherds out in the field, they were terrified! Wouldn't you have been scared, too? But the angel didn't come to scare them. He had good news. Jesus was here! The promised Savior had arrived. Jesus came so that we could all be part of God's story. You can have joy because God's story is for everyone.

If you had been one of the shepherds, how might you have responded to an angel appearing out of nowhere?

If you had a big announcement, whom would you tell first and why? _____

Why do you think God chose to first announce Jesus' birth to shepherds out in the field? _____

THANK God for sending Jesus so that everyone can be part of His amazing story!

READ LUKE 2:16-18

DAY 2

When the shepherds heard the news, they took off toward town, excited to see this special baby that had been born. And when they found everything just as the angel had said, they were filled with joy! They couldn't wait to tell everyone about His birth. It was the best news ever.

God wants you to share this good news with others, too! He wants everyone to have the same joy—the joy of knowing Jesus! If you have a nativity set in your home, grab the baby Jesus. Wrap it up in Christmas paper. Create a simple Christmas card with today's verse written on the inside. On the outside write, "To: Everyone From: God". Carefully sneak it under the tree when no one is looking.

It's probably after Christmas by now, but someone should notice a gift that was somehow "missed." Once it's found, encourage someone to open it. Then talk about how God sent Jesus as a gift for all of us, so that everyone could have joy knowing they can be part of God's story.

ASK God to help to help you spread the good news of Jesus birth so everyone can have joy, too!





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READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16

DAY 3

Is it possible to be joyful *always*? What if you stub your toe? Or lose your iPod? Or get into a fight with your little brother? Or break a rule and lose your allowance? Joy *always*? Really?!

Remember, joy is about finding a way to be happy even *when* things don't go your way. Notice it doesn't say "if" things don't go your way, but "when" they do. That means that you will face stuff that's not fun. Life isn't all sunshine and rainbows and chocolate sprinkles. But when you trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, it IS possible to find a way to have joy, even in the hard stuff. That's why Christmas—the day Jesus was born—is such a big deal.

Grab ten sticky notes. Write, "Always be joyful" on each one and stick them in ten different places around your house. As you pass by each sticky note this week, it will remind you to look for joy, even when things don't go your way.

ASK God to help you be joyful, always.

READ JOHN 3:16

DAY 4

This verse is what the Bible is all about. God loved you and so He did what people who love do: He gave. What did He give? His one and only Son, Jesus. Why? Because Jesus took the punishment for our sin or the wrong things we do. And when we believe in Him, we can have eternal life. That means we will have a relationship with God forever. When we choose to trust Jesus as our Saviour, our sin no longer keeps us from God. So Jesus' birth, which we celebrate on Christmas, is a really big deal. It's what makes real joy possible.

Grab a piece of paper and illustrate this verse, any way you'd like. You can draw a heart for love, baby Jesus in a manger for "Son," etc. When finished, choose someone in your family or neighborhood to give your drawing to. Then tell them about how Jesus' birth means that everyone can be part of God's story.

KNOW that joy is possible because God gave us His only son, Jesus!



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JOY
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