

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

DAY 1

Read Psalms 23:1-4, NlrV

Have you ever heard the phrase “Jesus is our Shepherd?” A shepherd’s main job is to take care of his sheep. The Shepherd makes sure the sheep have plenty of food and water. In Psalms 23, it says that JESUS is our GOOD Shepherd. That means, that Jesus will take care of us and give us everything that we need. It even says that He will take care of us, even when we walk through a dark valley. That means, that He takes care of us when we walk through hard things. Jesus loves us so much and wants to help us have joy, even when life is hard.

Prayer Time

Today when you are at home, think about praying to God when you face a situation that you need help with. Make it a goal to pray throughout the day. Thank Him for the food and water that you have. Thank Him for a house to live in, and toys to play with! If you have a situation where you are afraid, ask Him for help and to give you joy even when something is hard. How did talking to God make a difference today?

DAY 2

Read John 10:11, 14-15, NlrV

Did you know that God knows you? He knows when you go to sleep and when you wake up. He knows when you are happy, sad, or angry. He knows when you are having fun at the beach, or when you are fighting with your brother. Not only does Jesus know you, we have the chance to know Him!

Real joy, the kind that comes from knowing God, means that even when we have bad days, we remember what Jesus has done for us. We can celebrate, even on the crummiest of days because Jesus came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God, now and forever.

Knowing God

Write three things below that you know about God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DAY 3

Read John 16:33, Nlrv

Have you ever had a day where nothing seemed to go your way? Your brother used the last of the milk, so you had to eat a bowl of dry cereal for breakfast. Your dog had an accident in the house, and you had to clean it up. You fell and scraped your knee at the pool.

Jesus reminds us here that we *will* have trouble. But be encouraged! Jesus is bigger than all those annoying or hard things. He made a way for everyone who believes in Him to have a relationship with God. We can look for joy and find it always, when we remember what Jesus has done for us.

Talk It Out

Read today's verse out loud to an adult or older sibling. Talk about any "trouble" you faced today and why it made you sad or frustrated. Then spend some time praying together, thanking God for sending Jesus. Ask God to help you face trouble with JOY and peace!

DAY 4

Read James 1:2-3, Nlrv

When you face hard things, do you want to whistle your favorite tune, smile wide, or say to yourself, "You know, my life is pretty great?" NO WAY! When hard things happen, and they certainly will, you are allowed to be upset or sad or angry.

But James is reminding us that every trial is a chance to learn something, to grow in our faith and trust in God. Hard things are still hard things BUT we can remember that God is with us and loves us. He is our good Shepherd that walks with us, even in dark valleys. God knew that we would need someone to save us, so He sent Jesus. When we keep trusting God even on hard days, our faith and trust grows stronger.

Crack The Code

Use the code below to unlock the letters and reveal the verse.

“
/ - + < : >) +)
& ~ ; @ (= > |”

James 1:2b, Nlrv

#	%	*	^	()	-	+	=	:	!	\$	<	>	~	@	&	/	;	\	
A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y

Jesus showed us how to have joy.