

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

DAY 1

Read John 2:9-10

Have you ever heard the phrase “party pooper”? In our Bible story this week, Jesus was the opposite of that. Instead of the party ending too early when the host ran out of wine, Jesus stepped in to help. By performing a miracle and turning the water into wine, Jesus allowed the celebration to continue! Why? Because He knew that spending time celebrating with family and friends was important. Jesus showed us how to have joy.

Party Planning

If you could plan a party for your family and friends, what would you do? What kind of food would you serve? Grab some construction paper and coloring utensils to create a party invitation. Make sure to include the name of the party (for example: Evan’s 5th Birthday).

DAY 2

Read Galatians 5:22-23

Today’s verses aren’t about strawberries or bananas! When we trust Jesus as our Savior and His Spirit lives in us, the “fruit” we produce should look like the things listed in this verse, including JOY! Even when things don’t go our way.

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.

Bananas of Joy

Do you have a banana or two in your kitchen? If so, grab a plastic knife and carve the word “JOY” into the peel along the side. Observe what happens over the course of a few hours. “JOY” should stand out more and more. As you eat your banana, thank God for sending Jesus to give us joy!

Read John 16:33

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!

Read James 1:2-3

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. God sent Jesus to save us.

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.

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James 1:2b, NIV

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Jesus showed us
 how to have joy.