

Use this guide to help your family learn about faith.



First, watch this week's video!

Faith: Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Memory Verse

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."
Ephesians 2:8 NIV

Bible Story

Paul and Silas Are Thrown into Prison
Acts 16:16-40

Key Question

What brings you joy?

Activity

Absorbing Joy

What You Need:

Glass of water, cotton balls

What You Do:

Fill the glass to the brim with water. Carefully place it on a flat surface. Set out a handful of cotton balls.

Invite your child to do an activity with you. Say, "This glass of water represents the joy in our life. The cotton balls represent hard things that we go through."

Ask your child to share about some of the struggles they've faced recently. You can share some of your own as well. For each struggle, direct your child to carefully place a cotton ball in the glass of water.

Even though you may be adding several cotton balls to the glass that's already full, you'll see that the water does not overflow from the glass.

When you're finished sharing and adding in cotton balls, say, "This is how joy works when we rely on God to help us find it. Remember, the cotton balls represent difficult times that we will inevitably face in life. The full glass of water represents our joy. God can help us find joy regardless of what's happening around us."

Talk About the Bible Story

How would you have felt if you were Paul and Silas in prison? Why do you think they were able to still have joy?

What brings you happiness in life?

What's the difference between happiness and joy?

Why is it challenging to have joy in hard situations?

When we're dealing with a tough situation, what are some things we can remember about God that can give us joy? (*We can remember that God is with us, God loves us, and we can trust God no matter what.*)

Parent: Talk about a time when God helped you find joy, even in the midst of trouble. Maybe God helped you find joy after you lost a job, when your car broke down, or when you had to move to a new place—even though you didn't want to.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, we know that life will not always be easy. Sometimes we'll go through things that make us feel sad, angry, and confused. But we know that You can help us find joy no matter what's going on. Remind us that we can have joy in hard times because of all You've done for us. We love You. Amen!"