



FINDING A WAY TO BE HAPPY,
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY

MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
PHILIPPIANS 4:4 (NIRV)

EXTRA MEMORY VERSES

WEEK ONE (MEMORIZE FOR DECEMBER 7/8):

"That's because what God says will always come true." LUKE 1:37, NIRV

WEEK TWO (MEMORIZE FOR DECEMBER 14/15):

"God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us." EPHESIANS 3:20, NIRV

WEEK THREE (MEMORIZE FOR DECEMBER 21/22):

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." MATTHEW 1:21, NIRV

WEEK FOUR (MEMORIZE FOR DECEMBER 28/29):

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord." LUKE 2:11, NIRV

WEEK FIVE (MEMORIZE FOR JANUARY 4/5):

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The wise men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh." MATTHEW 2:10-11, NIRV

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Is Promised. We kick off December with some Old Testament prophecies found in Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 53:8, and Micah 5:2. The story of Christmas begins with promises God made long before that all pointed to Jesus. God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years, but all of that was about to change.

BOTTOM LINE: You can have joy because God keeps His promises. Sometimes it's hard to find joy in the middle of a tough situation. Thankfully, when we look through the Bible, we can see that God has always been at work. Knowing that God faithfully kept His promises in the past can give us joy knowing that He'll be with us in the future.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY: The Coming Birth of Jesus. We continue the story of Christmas in Luke 1:26-56. The Messiah had been promised for generations, but no one would have guessed that God would use a young woman to bring that promise to fulfillment—including that young woman herself. Mary was awestruck when the angel came to announce that she was about to have a child who would be the Savior of the world. She found joy, trusting that God was up to something bigger than she could have possibly imagined.

BOTTOM LINE: You can have joy because God is with you. Our circumstances do not have to determine how joyful we feel. We may not be happy about what is happening, but joy goes beyond happiness as it is rooted in our trust that God will carry us through whatever we face.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Is Born. In Luke 2:1-20, we read that God didn't announce Jesus' birth to kings or government officials. Rather, He sent an angel choir to announce this news to a bunch of shepherds on a hillside. The shepherds ran to find Jesus, where they worshipped Him. They were so full of joy that made sure to tell everyone what they saw when they left.

BOTTOM LINE: You can have joy because God sent His Son. God's people had waited so long for God to send the Savior. When Jesus was born, the shepherds knew they needed to celebrate big. We pray that you will do the same when you remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

WEEK FOUR

MERRY CHRISTMAS! THIS WEEK YOU'LL GET TO ENJOY THE SERVICE AS A FAMILY. CHECK OUT THE WEEK 4 ACTIVITY PAGE FOR THINGS TO DO ALL WEEK AS YOU CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS!

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STORY: The Wise Men Visit Jesus. In Matthew 2:1-12, we see how the announcement of Jesus' birth was far-reaching. Wise men from the East saw a star that set them on an adventure to find the promised King of Israel. When they finally found Jesus, they worshipped Him as king.

BOTTOM LINE: You can find joy when you search for God. When we believe that Jesus is the promised One sent from God to rescue us from our sins, we become part of God's story. That story isn't something we can keep to ourselves. It's a story we need to share with everyone.

SALVATION MESSAGE

Have you talked with your kids about making Jesus their forever friend? Did you know we have a resource for you? The ABC's of Salvation. Stop by a welcome center for a copy or visit dvparents.org.



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KEY QUESTION: What's the difference between joy and happiness? As you grow, you might start to wonder how you can be happy even when life isn't going well. It's important to start thinking about how you can choose joy no matter what is happening in your life. You can trust God to give you joy.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY: The Coming Birth of Jesus. We continue the story of Christmas in Luke 1:26-56. The Messiah had been promised for generations, but no one would have guessed that God would use a young woman to bring that promise to fulfillment—including that young woman herself. Mary was awestruck when the angel came to announce that she was about to have a child who would be the Savior of the world. She found joy, trusting that God was up to something bigger than she could have possibly imagined.

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KEY QUESTION: What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid? Some of the most difficult times to find joy are in those moments when we are scared of what might happen next. As you discover more about joy, you'll start to figure out how you can choose joy no matter what you face.

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KEY QUESTION: What's the best part of Christmas this year? No matter what is happening at home, Christmas can be joyful experience because God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Ask yourself this question to get you thinking about the great things that might happen during Christmas this year.

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KEY QUESTION: How can you find joy all year long? Joy isn't something we need to only find during the Christmas season. God offers joy to us each and every day. Sometimes it's hard to be sure where to start. As you grow in your relationship with Jesus, you'll discover how you can choose joy.

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