



FRUIT - Lesson 1: Joy

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: Parent Notes

This month we are talking about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians chapter five. The word fruit is defined as, “that which is produced by the inherent energy of a living organism.” The living organism is the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us. We don’t have to produce the fruit, we just allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

The first fruit we are going to talk about is Joy. When kids think about joy, many will think of Christmas morning or their birthday. Most children associate joy with receiving gifts, but **true joy does not come from things.**

Have you ever wanted something really bad, like a new car, but after you owned it for a few months, it wasn’t that big of a deal? Things can bring temporary joy, but it doesn’t last. **Joy comes from our relationship with God and others.** Loving God and loving people is what produces real joy.

- It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)
- Heaven is joyful when one person receives Jesus. (Luke 15:10)
- We experience Joy when God answers our prayers. (John 16:24)
- We experience Joy when we obey Him. (John 15:10-11)

We can choose to be joyful even when we don’t feel like it. The Bible says, “when trouble comes your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” Joy is kind of like an emergency flashlight. If the power goes out in your house, you are not out of light. It’s just a sign you need to pull out your flashlight. When bad things happen, it’s a sign you need to pull out your joy. Instead of thinking about the bad thing that just happened, think about all the good things that God has done for you.

In summary, today’s lesson has three points:

1. Joy does not come from things.
2. Joy comes from our relationship with God and others.
3. We can choose to be joyful even when we don’t feel like it.

BOTTOM LINE:

Joy - Choosing to be happy when you don’t feel like it.

MEMORY VERSE:

“When trouble of any kind comes your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.”
James 1:2 (NLT)

PRAY FOR YOUR KIDS

“Father God, I pray for (insert your child’s name) and that he/she will learn how to experience Your joy in every situation.” Amen

Pray this prayer each day for your children.

ONE ON ONE

- The lesson of learning how to be joyful in every circumstance in life is important to teach your children.
- As a parent, you understand that life is filled with disappointment, but disappointment does not have to decide what we do.
- Learning how to choose to be joyful doesn’t just happen - it is a choice.

BIBLE STORY

A Dark Day For Paul & Silas

READ THE BIBLE

Acts 16:16-34

THE STORY

- Paul and Silas were missionaries.
- On one missionary trip they had enraged the evil leaders in the city - who then reported them to the rulers of the city.
- They were dragged, beaten, falsely accused and were not able to defend themselves.
- The rulers of the city threw them into jail.
- These were bad circumstances because no one was on their side - except God.
- They could have cried and worried about what to do, but instead they lifted their bloody and bruised arms and praised God.
- An earthquake shook the jail and the jailer took them to his home and cleaned their wounds and gave them food to eat.
- The jailer and his house was saved that day.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. How could Peter and Silas not worry about their circumstances? (they CHOSE to praise God instead)
2. How can we be sure that God will take care of us? (we trust His Word which says He will take care of us)

HOME DEVOTION LESSON

When The Lights Go Out

BOTTOM LINE:

When bad things happen, it is a sign to pull out your joy.

NEEDED:

An emergency flashlight

HERE IS WHAT YOU DO:

- Bring out the Emergency Flashlight.
- Show your family where you keep it, and where extra batteries are located.

HERE IS WHAT YOU SAY:

- If there is ever an emergency and the lights go out, we are not out of light.
- We have a backup - the Emergency Flashlight.
- When the lights go out, it is a sign for us to pull out our backup.
- Just like storms hit our house, storms can hit our lives - everyone.
- But when bad things happen to us, it is a sign for us to pull out our backup - JOY.
- Joy is a choice.
- When bad things happen, “worry” wants to show up.
- When bad things happen, “disappointment” wants to show up.
- Instead of thinking about the bad things that happened to you, think about the good things that have happened.

HERE IS WHAT YOU DO EXERCISE:

- Share a time in your life when something bad happened to you and you did not pull out your joy.
- Share another time when you did pull out your joy.
- (Believe it or not, your kids will learn a lot when you share your own situations, when you failed and when you succeeded.
- Talk about a situation that your child may be dealing with right now.
- One way to reinforce the fruit of joy is to use scriptures:
 - Acts 20:35
 - Luke 15:10
 - John 16:24
 - John 15:10-11

REINFORCING POINTS:

1. When bad things happen, pull out your joy.
2. Don't allow bad things or disappointment decide how you will react.
3. Joy does not come from things.
4. Joy comes from our relationship with God and others.
5. We can choose to be joyful even when we don't feel like it.