

APRIL 2026

JOY

choosing to celebrate what God is doing

Jesus is alive! It's time to celebrate! When Jesus died for our sins, He reconciled us to God, and then when He stepped out of the tomb, He defeated the power of death. This is the reason that we can have joy, no matter what's going on in our lives. This was all part of God's rescue plan that began in the Garden. This month, we'll start with the worst day in history, the day Jesus was crucified. But that was followed by the very best day, when He rose again! We'll also discover the huge job Jesus gave to His followers, including us, before returning to heaven. And we'll learn about the amazing arrival of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost, sealing the promise that Jesus gave to always be with us, and guiding and helping us every day. In fact, the Holy Spirit is constantly at work in the lives of Jesus' followers, producing a harvest of joy (along with the other fruit of the Spirit!)

WEEK 1: Easter
(Family Service)

No K-5th grade Sunday School classes

WEEK 2: Jesus Crucified and Risen
(John 18--20:23)

You can have joy because Jesus is alive

WEEK 3: Great Commission and Ascension
(Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)

You can share the good news about Jesus

WEEK 4: Pentecost/Fruit of the Spirit
(Acts 2:1-41; Galatians 5:22-23)

God's Spirit gives you joy

MEMORY VERSE:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



MORNING TIME

As your kid starts his day, share one reason he brings joy into your life.



MEAL TIME

At a meal this month, have everyone at the table answer this question: "How does knowing that Jesus is alive give you hope and joy in your daily life?"



DRIVE TIME

While on the go, ask your kid, "What do you think it means to have joy even in difficult circumstances? What might that actually look like in your life?"



BED TIME

Pray with each other: "Jesus, remind us to celebrate you every day of the year because You are alive and bring salvation! Amen."

PARENT TIP:

Having true joy isn't about slapping a smile on your face, ignoring the pain, and forcing yourself to be happy even when you're sad. Having true joy is about remembering the bigger picture of God's grace, love, and hope so that the sadness doesn't swallow you whole.

We must understand that it is appropriate to have sorrow over the brokenness of this world. So, when we need to cry, we should cry. And that means when our kids need to cry, we should allow them to cry, too. More than that, we should meet them in their grief the way Jesus meets us in our grief. But don't leave them there to get stuck.

After acknowledging their sorrow and "weeping with those who weep," help them to see the ways God is working all around them. Encourage them to celebrate those things. After all, Christians are the people who can embrace both grief and joy together. As you learn to do this yourself with the help of the Holy Spirit, patiently lead your children on the same path.