

Joy is choosing to celebrate what God is doing.

DAY 1

Read Philippians 4:4, NIV

Do you have a lost and found at school? Do you know what items NEVER end up in Lost and Found? Items labeled with the owner's name. If you accidentally leave your water bottle on the playground and it has your name on it, it will be handed back to you because it's labeled as yours.

Just like the labeled water bottle belongs to someone, we belong to the Lord. Because of that, we can have joy! We often look at what's going on around us and let our circumstances determine how we feel. But JOY is bigger than happiness. Because being *happy* depends on what is *happening* around you. Joy is a deep-down understanding that no matter what, God is on your side.

Label It

Grab an index card and write, "I belong to God" in big block letters. Hang it in your closet where you will see it each day. Every time you read those words, stop and thank God for loving you and celebrate what God can and WILL do.

DAY 2

Read Philippians 3:1a, NIV

When Paul wrote this letter to the church in the city of Philippi, do you know where he was? Take a guess.

- A. At his seaside home
- B. Visiting family
- C. In prison
- D. None of the above

Paul wasn't visiting family or hanging out at the beach. He wrote these words while in prison. Despite his circumstances, Paul knew that joy was possible because of Jesus. He wanted to encourage the believers to keep serving God and to hang on to joy because they belonged to God.

Even if you never ended up in a situation like Paul's, you still might face difficult situations that try to steal your joy. When you feel discouraged, remember that God has promised to make everything right in the end. Because of what Jesus has done, when we trust Him as our Savior, we don't have to worry about the future. We can have joy and celebrate what God will do.

DAY 3

Read Revelation 21:3-4, NIV

Swim With The Fishies

Do you have a pet fish? What if you could shrink down, jump into the bowl, and talk to your fish? What if you could tell him all about what life is like outside of his fishbowl? What if you tried to describe what it's like to breathe air and walk around on two feet? How would you describe life on land?

When it comes to heaven and spending forever with God, we're kind of like that fish. We won't be able to understand everything about heaven until we experience it. While we don't know all the details, we do know it means we will get to live with God forever! Because of Jesus, we now have a way to fix our broken relationship with God. We will be WITH God, just like we're with our parents or friends, and THAT will be awesome. Until that day, we can wait with hope and celebrate what God will do!

DAY 4

Read Revelation 21:3-4, NIV

Heaven Views

Grab some paper and some watercolor paints or crayons. Spend a few minutes painting or coloring what you think heaven will look like.

God has made a BIG promise to us. When we put our trust in Jesus, we can live with God forever in a place where nothing bad or sad EVER happens.

In heaven, we will live with God in a perfect place, more awesome than we can imagine. A place with no pain, no sadness, no worry, no tears, no separation, or fear. We won't need band-aids or medicine or even doctors because there will be no sickness, or injuries, or death. Being with God will be like the best party you've ever been to— except it will be BETTER— because this party will never, ever end.

Take a look at your drawing of heaven. Stop and celebrate with JOY today because following Jesus means that you'll be with God one day in this perfect place.

Celebrate what
God will do.