



SUMMERTIME FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR THE WEEK OF 07/26/20

AN ABUNDANCE OF JOY

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SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: ACTS 13:42-52, 16:16-34

BIG IDEA: HAPPINESS FADES, BUT THE JOY OF THE LORD IS FOREVER!

ACTIVITY - SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

SUPPLIES:

- 2 PLASTIC CUPS
- WATER
- VINEGAR
- BAKING SODA
- SCISSORS OR KNIFE
- BOWL (OPTIONAL)

COST: IN THE EVENT THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE MOST OF THESE SUPPLIES AT HOME ALREADY, WE RECOMMEND YOU GO THE CHEAP ROUTE; AVOID EXPENSIVE SUPPLIES! THE TOTAL COST FOR THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE AROUND \$5.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1.) Using scissors or a sharp knife, poke a few holes into both cups.
- 2.) Over the sink or a large bowl, fill one cup with the water. Ask your kids to observe and comment about what is taking place. Fill it up again and talk about how this is like happiness. We have to constantly keep filling ourselves up with more in order to stay happy, but it always runs out eventually.
- 3.) Place a tablespoon of baking soda into the other cup.
- 4.) Over the sink or a large bowl, pour vinegar into the cup. Ask your kids to observe and comment about what is taking place. Tell them that this is like the joy of the Lord in us. It cannot be taken away, and instead of running dry, overflows out of us.

DEVOTIONAL:

Do: Open your Bibles to Acts 13:42-52 and Acts 16:16-34.

Read: Acts 13:42-52

Say: At the end of the story the Bible says a very interesting thing. It says: "And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

Ask: What do you think that means? Why were they filled with joy, even when bad things were happening to them? What else were they filled with?

Allow Responses...

(They were probably not happy about how they were treated, but knew Jesus and were filled with His hope and peace, which meant they could be joyful even in bad times. They were also filled with the Holy Spirit.)

Ask: Typically, we feel happy when good things are happening to us and when things are going our way. When they don't, we feel sad. But joy is a fruit of the Spirit and doesn't go away when bad things happen. Our joy comes from the fact that we know God and that He is always with us. Even when difficult things happen, even if we're feeling sad, we can still have joy deep inside!

Read: Acts 16:16-34

Ask: Paul and Silas didn't run away, even when they could have. Why do you think this is? What happened as a result?

Say: When we are filled with the joy of the Lord, it doesn't leave us feeling empty. Even when times are hard, or we are unhappy, we can still trust in and be like Jesus. When others see this kind of joy flowing out of us, they will want it for themselves. This can help us to lead other people to follow Jesus.

Family Prayer

Father, we know that things aren't going to always go our way. Right now, in the world, things are not going our way. There is a lot of unhappiness in our lives and in all around us. But we know that we can trust in Your perfect holiness and have joy, even in the hardest times. Help us to remember that and to rely on You alone. Help us to show Jesus' love to everyone in all we say and do, so that others might come to know You through us. We thank You for the joy that Your Holy Spirit fills us with. Amen!