

FAMILY MINISTRIES: JULY

THE TABLE: A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The Fruit of The Spirit



July highlights the fruit of the Spirit - Joy. Paul and Silas have recently been thrown in Jail in this month's story from Acts. It would be easy to be angry and question God about their punishment for faithfully serving Him. Instead, Paul and Silas raise their voices as they sing hymns of praise to God. What an amazing example of choosing joy regardless of the circumstances.

Joy is a state of being rooted in a relationship with God and isn't determined by life's situations. The fruit of joy that is given to us by God allows us to be thankful in all situations. When we are members of God's family, we receive that gift of joy. By finding ways to be thankful and rejoice in all things, we are allowing His fruit to grow in our lives.

As a family, talk about the gift of joy. Take a moment to talk about when you were filled with joy and listen to your child share as well. Hear each other talk about when God was able to make you thankful or filled you with joy, despite the situation, and be an example and encouragement. As a family, try to make a heart of joy and thankfulness part of your daily conversation.

Talk with your child about the Bible Story this month: Acts 16:16-40.

"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:19-20

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

- ☺ What happened in the story?
- ☺ What did Paul and Silas do in jail?
- ☺ How did Paul and Silas get out of jail?
- ☺ What interaction happened with the jailer?



INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS:

- ☺ How would you have reacted if you were in jail (or timeout) like Paul and Silas?
- ☺ Why do you think Paul and Silas were singing hymns?
- ☺ Why do you think the jailer wanted to become a Christian?



APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- ☺ How can you have a positive attitude during tough times?
- ☺ What can you do so that you are a contagious Christian (so that others want to get to know Christ because of how you act)?



PRAY WITH YOUR CHILD:

- ☺ Thank God for the gift of joy and the many blessings that you have been given.
- ☺ Ask Him to help you have a heart of thankfulness and joy in all situations.
- ☺ If your child has not received Christ, give them the opportunity.
- ← Learn Scripture with your child.




HOME IDEAS

** Put on some upbeat music or praise songs. Dance around the house together, praising God and thanking Him for life.


** When sitting down for a meal together as a family, go around the table sharing one thing which you are thankful for that day.

** Curl up and read a good book together. Some suggestions include:

 Let's Make a Joyful Noise: Celebrating Psalm 100 by Karma Wilson & Amy June Bates

 Great Joy by Kate Dicamillo

 Corduroy by Don Freeman

 The Very Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle
(these last two can be conversation starters for being thankful or satisfied in all things).

** Read and talk about James 1 or Philippians (specifically 3 and 4).

** Talk with your child about the difference between joy and happiness.

** Make a joyful poster. Use words, pictures, cutouts, etc. to make a poster filled with things that bring you joy.

** Plan a Day of Joy. As a family, plan activities that you can do as a family to bring you joy. Maybe go for a hike, visit the beach, go swimming, or plan a huge art project. Try to include in your day a way to bring joy to others. Perhaps you can serve at a homeless shelter, help an elderly neighbor, or a mom that could use a break from her children. The ideas are endless!!



Contact Calyn Hauck, Director of Family Ministries for further information or to sign-up to help with Children's Ministries: calyn@haucks.us or 503-247-8447.

SONGS TO SING

As you sing with your child, talk about how drawing close to Jesus helps us to grow in His image, allowing the fruits of the spirit to grow in us.



I Will Celebrate

Chorus

I will celebrate
Sing unto the Lord
Sing to the Lord a new song
(repeat)

Verse 1

With my heart rejoicing within
With my mind focused on Him
With my hands raised to the heavens
All I am worshiping Him

I'm Trading My Sorrows

Verse 1

I trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord

Chorus

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord. Amen

Misc 1 (BRIDGE)

I am pressed but not crushed
Persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse
For His promise will endure
That His joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning.



Other Songs:

Joyful, Joyful We Adore
Thee