

Sunday 16 August 2020



Ages 6-9 years

You can see God wherever you see love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control

Prayer

Dear God,
Knowing you love me
fills my heart with joy.
Help me be a joy to others.
In Jesus name, **Amen**

To Read

Luke 15:1-10

(See attached)

Have you ever lost something, only to find it again?

Can you remember how that felt?

God feels like that whenever someone who shows no interest in God turns to him.

To Do:

- **Practice JOY** this week - Bring joy to another family member by doing something nice for them. When they say "Thank you," respond by saying, "Share the joy!" Then it is their turn to surprise someone.
- **Bring joy to an aged care resident** by writing/drawing a letter and sending it to a local aged care home or go to lettersagainstiso.com an initiative by a year 12 student from MacRobertson Girls High School that sends letters to aged care facilities around Australia. Check out this wonderful project.
- **Rug up** and pack a breakfast picnic and find a quiet place to eat and watch the sunrise. Listen to the sounds of nature waking up around you. As the sun comes up, imagine that God is painting a picture in the sky for all to enjoy. Think about how creative God is and how much fun He must have mixing the colours every day. Paint your own sunrise pictures at home.

JOY

What is joy?

Happiness is a feeling, but joy is a way of thinking or looking at life. Happiness is an emotion or something we experience; joy is an attitude or a mindset we choose to have in all circumstances, good or bad, because we trust that God loves us and is always with us.

An example of the difference between happiness and joy: We might feel happy heading out to spend a day at the beach with friends. If it suddenly begins to rain, instead of feeling happy, we would probably be disappointed. Perhaps the adults agreed to visit a museum and have an indoor picnic instead. Someone who decides to make the best of the day and enjoy the exhibits is **choosing** to forget about being disappointed and to be joyful. On the other hand, if someone pouts all day due to missing out on going to the beach, he or she is **choosing** to be unhappy.

Some common joy stealers include always wanting more or wanting the biggest or the best. These attitudes steal joy, but being content and generous with what we have gives us joy. True joy is found in Jesus and in sharing His love with others.

Joy looks out and up, not inward

Often we think that *getting* something will make us happy. We tell ourselves, "If only ..." But joy and happiness come much more from **giving** and **helping others** than from **getting**. The apostle Paul reminded his listeners that Jesus had taught this very thing: "There is more happiness in *giving* than in receiving" Acts chapter 20 verse 35.

Based on Luke 15:1-10

There was a woman who had ten silver coins which she was given by her husband as a wedding present. She was probably a poor woman, and those ten silver coins were very important and precious to her.



One day, as she was working, one of the coins dropped off. The woman counted her coins *Six ... Seven ... Eight ... Nine ...*

"Oh, no! There are only nine! Maybe I have counted them wrong," she thought to herself. So she put them all in her hand and counted them again:

Six ... Seven ... Eight ... Nine ...

"Oh, NO!!!! There really are only nine. There are supposed to be TEN!" she exclaimed loudly. "Now what am I going to do?"

Frantically, the woman searched her whole house. She looked on the floor, under the table where she had been counting the coins, but it was not there. She looked in her pockets just in case it might have fallen off the table and into her pocket, but she could not find the coin. She got her broom and started sweeping every nook and cranny, but still did not find the lost coin.



Finally the woman lit a candle so she would have more light. She got down on her knees on the floor and searched every inch of her small house and was ready to give up in despair. But... wait! What was that? The light from the candle caused her to notice a slight gleam near the table leg. She hurried to the spot and put the candle down low so she could see better. There, glistening in the light, was the shiny silver coin.

The woman was so excited and full of joy about finding her lost coin, she went out to get her friends and invited them to her house for a big party. All her friends were just as happy as she was about finding the missing coin. They had a long, joyous celebration.



After telling the story of the woman rejoicing because she found her lost coin, Jesus turned to the people and said, "In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him." That means that the angels in heaven sing and shout for joy, and have a great celebration when one person chooses to stop doing things he or she knows to be wrong, and instead chooses to follow God's way, by doing what is right.