

Discipleship Tools

In a season of live streaming and canceled children's programs, may the following questions and activities guide you in helping your children apply the sermon.

1 Peter 1:1-12

If you miss the live stream, you can view the sermon [here](#).

Sermon Discussion

Preschool

1. What is something you've been really excited about lately? How have you rejoiced?
2. How can you rejoice even when things aren't going your way?

Younger Kids

1. What is something you've been really excited about lately? How have you rejoiced?
2. What difficulties are you currently facing? What does 1 Peter encourage us to do in the face of trials?
3. Let us pray together and express joy to God for saving us, giving us an inheritance, and protecting us.

Older Kids

1. What difficulties are you currently facing? Where are you tempted to go for comfort other than Jesus?
2. Which of the three reasons to rejoice mentioned in the sermon was most encouraging to you? Why?
3. How can we do better as a family at remembering our heavenly hope?

Christ Connection

How does this text point us to Jesus?

Preschool: Trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior gives us joy even when things don't go our way.

Elementary: Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we can rejoice even in the most difficult circumstances.

Activity

Object Lesson on Joy

You'll need:

2 inflated balloons (one with 1/2 cup of water in it)

A lighter and/or a candle

Permanent Marker

Prep: Fill one balloons with air and another with air plus a 1/2 cup of water. Draw smiley faces on both of your balloons.

Here we have two balloons, let's pretend these are people. Both of our people appear joyful on the outside with their big smiling faces. What are some things that make you happy? Typically we are happy when things are going our way. But what happens when things don't go our way? What are some things that might make you feel sad, frustrated, or discouraged? Let's pretend this candle

represents the bad things or trials that happen in our life. What happens when our “happy” balloon faces the bad things.

Hold the balloon above the flame. The balloon should pop.

Those bad things destroyed our balloon's happiness!

Let's try this with our other happy balloon. Wait there's something different about this balloon isn't there? It has water in it. Let's allow the water to represent Jesus. Trusting in Jesus as our Savior gives us something beyond external happiness. It gives us inner joy and peace even in the most difficult circumstances. Let's see what happens to this guy when he faces the fiery trials...

Hold the “water” balloon sideways over the flame so the water is between the air and the flame. He shouldn't pop...

No matter how difficult the circumstance is, it will never destroy the hope and the joy we have in Christ.

Re-Read 1 Peter 1:3-6a

3 Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. **4** He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to him. This is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you. **5** Through faith you are kept safe by God's power. Your salvation is going to be completed. It is ready to be shown to you in the last days. **6** Because you know all this, you have great joy. You have joy even though you may have had to suffer for a little while. (NIRV)

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