

“JOY Story”
My Story of God’s Goodness in My Life
Lesson One - JOY in God’s Presence

WORD: What does the Bible say?

The theme verse: **Acts 2:28** - “You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with JOY in your presence.” (NIV)

The theme verse for Preschoolers: **Acts 2:28** - “...You will fill me with JOY in your presence.”

WHISPERS: What Truth is God speaking to us?

“Stay with Me, in My presence. I will guide you on the path to JOY.” - **God**

WISDOM: How can we seek God’s perspective about this Truth?

God, we all want to be happy, but what is JOY, and how does it become part of our story? How do we find the the path to true, lasting JOY? Show us Your perspective on JOY, amen!

WELCOME: What can we learn about this Truth?

Happiness can come and go, but JOY is gladness in our hearts because of God’s goodness in our lives. The best, fullest way we experience God’s goodness is through spending time with Him in His presence. In our JOY Story with Jesus, He promises that He will fill us with JOY and make our lives complete when we follow Him and His path.

WEAVING: What does the Bible teach about this Truth?

JOY is a simple word, but it can be hard to explain. Is JOY just a good feeling or something deeper? Is JOY a lot of happiness or a lack of sadness? A lot of people say a lot of things about JOY, but we’re going to learn what God’s Word says about JOY in the coming lessons.

Jesus taught His disciples many, many things, and then He said, **“These things I have spoken to you, that my JOY may be in you and that your JOY may be full”** (John 15:11 ESV). If we want to experience JOY, then we want to stay close to Jesus and pay attention to what He says. He will show us the path.

Say you are out hiking and reach a fork in the trail. From where you’re standing, both directions look exactly the same, with sunshine, wildflowers, beautiful boulders and enormous trees. A sign post has arrows pointing each direction. One arrow says, “Good path.” The arrow pointing the opposite direction says, “Amazing path with the perfect guide.” Which path are you going to choose?

On the road of life, Jesus told us that full, complete JOY is found by listening to Him, staying in His presence and walking the path He shows us. Jesus promised this leads to JOY. His Word says, **“You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with JOY in your presence” (Acts 2:28)**. Let’s walk with Jesus on the path to JOY because it’s an amazing path and He’s the Perfect Guide.

WALKING: How can we live out this Truth?

One way to remember the path to JOY is through: **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou - that spells JOY! We’ll talk about the “others” and “you” of JOY in days to come, but, for now, let’s focus on the J of Joy: Jesus! Just like we spend time with people we love, we can spend time with Jesus! Being in His presence and spending time with Him is where the fullest JOY begins.

We can spend time with Jesus through things like: reading His Word, talking to Him in prayer, thinking about Him, meditating on His Word, worshipping, and so much more. Some people might call this “having your devotions”, but I also like to think of it “having your Jesus time.” We are in Jesus’ presence when we Seek Him and Speak Him into others’ lives. We are in His presence when we choose to make Him a part of our stories every new day of our lives.

Being in His presence doesn’t have to be difficult or complicated or a certain length of time. You don’t have to be a certain age to spend time with Him. Having a Jesus Joy Story is as simple as making Jesus a part of your story right now. Let’s talk about how we are each going to have some “Jesus time” in His presence today!

WONDERS: What questions do we have about this?

Questions for Preschoolers: What does Jesus promise us when we follow Him? What does JOY mean to you? Do you remember what the “J” of JOY stands for? How do we find true, lasting JOY? What’s one way you can spend time with Jesus today?

What’s the best hike or walk you’ve ever experienced? What was it like? What did you love about it? Would you have replaced that hike to just walk down a normal street? When Jesus

says that He will show us His path to full, complete joy, will you choose His path or a different one? What does it mean to walk with Jesus? Do YOU walk with Jesus? How will YOU seek some “Jesus time” today?

WORSHIP: How shall we respond to the Lord for this Truth?

Worship through Prayer: Jesus, “You make known to me the path of life, and You will fill me with JOY in Your presence” (Psalm 16:11). We are so grateful for the JOY you give! Help us understand how we can walk the path of JOY in Your presence today. We love You Jesus, amen!

Worship through Praise: Joy! by Worship Central Australia -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdlvnUjyK-A>

Family Disciple Me: A blessing to speak over your children

“May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace as you trust in Him” (Romans 15:13a).
May you experience ALL the JOY God has for you as you make your story about His story all the days of your life.