



FINDING A WAY TO BE HAPPY,
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY



READ ISAIAH 9:6

DAY 1

It's Christmas! There are so many things that bring joy this time of year. Snowflakes, presents, lights, even crazy Christmas sweaters. But even the most wonderful time of the year isn't always joyful. That's why we've defined joy as finding a way to be happy even when things don't go your way.

God sent Isaiah as a prophet with a special message, that God would one day send His Son, Jesus! And though God made this promise long before it came true, we celebrate that special birth today. Christmas is all about Jesus—the day God sent us His one and only Son. Isaiah uses some phrases to describe Jesus, our Savior. Draw a line from the title to its definition below:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| WONDERFUL ADVISER | MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYONE OR ANYTHING |
| MIGHTY GOD | ETERNAL, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER |
| FATHER WHO LIVES FOREVER | THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIX OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS |
| PRINCE OF PEACE | THE ONE WHO CAN HELP AND GUIDE US |

Circle one of the titles from today's verse, fill the following prayer and talk to God:

GOD THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS, THE DAY WE CELEBRATE JESUS. THANK YOU FOR SENDING HIM TO BE
 MY _____ BECAUSE _____
 (Title from above) (reason you chose that title)

READ LUKE 1:37

DAY 2

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Mary? One day, she was going about her business when an angel suddenly appeared right in front of her! And this angel named Gabriel had a message that kind of went like this:

- Gabriel: "Hey Mary, you will have a baby. And He will be the Son of God."
 Mary: "I'm sorry, what?"
 Gabriel: "Don't worry, what God says will always come true."
 Mary: "Okay, let it be as God has said."

Now, you and I know the rest of the story. God did keep His promise to Mary and to all of us. He did send His one and only son Jesus, to us. Though Mary was surprised and unsure, she trusted God and His plan. And we can remember that too. Even when we're scared or unsure about how things will work out, we can still choose joy because God keeps His promises. Ask God to help you find joy, even when things don't go your way this week, because He keeps His promises.

READ JAMES 1:17A

DAY 3

In the space to the right, write down some good things God has done for you. Set a timer for one minute to see how many you can list.

Did you know every single thing on that list comes from one place? Every good and perfect gift is from who? Yes! God! He loves you and He loves to give you good things. But of all the wonderful things—even the things you've listed—the BEST gift ever isn't one you can wrap up in a box and tie with a pretty ribbon. The best gift ever is Jesus, God's one and only Son!

We celebrate the day God gave us this best gift ever on Christmas.

Thank God for some of the things you've listed above AND for sending Jesus, the best gift ever.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 DAY 4

Today's verse tells us that when God makes a promise, it's always "yes!" God will do what He says He will do. Always. We know this is true because of Jesus. God promised to send a Savior to us and He did.

Did you catch the second part of the verse? "Amen" means, I agree! Joy comes when we recognize how good God is and how He never changes. Next to the promises God gives us, write the word "Amen" to show that you agree that the promise is true!

GOD LOVES YOU. _____

GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS. _____

GOD IS WITH YOU. _____

GOD WILL HELP YOU MAKE THE WISE CHOICE. _____

GOD CAN BE TRUSTED, NO MATTER WHAT. _____

As you pray today, thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus, then end your prayer with a loud "AMEN!"



YOU
CAN HAVE JOY
BECAUSE GOD KEEPS
HIS PROMISES.