



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



READ MATTHEW 2:10-11

DAY 1

When you look up at the stars, can you find the North Star? It's the brightest star in a group of stars called the Little Dipper. Because the North Star stays in an almost constant position, sailors once used it as a navigational point. Think of it like the first GPS.

Thousands of years ago, a group of wise men used a special star in the sky to guide them too. These men followed a star to find a King! Do you know who it was? Yes—Jesus! When they arrived, they worshipped Jesus and presented Him with royal gifts. Just imagine how joyful they must have been after months of searching?

We can find joy too, even when things don't feel super joyful, when we look for God! We can find Him in the things He's made, like a sky full of stars. We can read about Him in His word and we can talk to Him, all the time in prayer.

Look up at the stars tonight before you lay your head on the pillow and thank God for sending Jesus to bring us joy.

READ ACTS 17:26-28

DAY 2

From one man—Adam, all people were made. Now they live everywhere from Alaska to Australia. But God didn't just make us, place us on the earth at a certain time and place and then leave us on our own to figure it out. What does verse 27 say? God created you and placed you exactly where you are right now so that you would seek Him! You are His child and He loves you more than you can possibly imagine. He sent His only Son, Jesus, on that first Christmas to prove His love for you!

Do you have a world map? If so, close your eyes and move your finger over the map, count to five and then stop! If you land on an ocean, move your finger to the closest continent. Did you know that God sent Jesus for the people that live there? Did you know that God sent Jesus for you?

Spend a few moments praying for the people in the country you landed on, that they would hear the good news about Jesus and seek to follow Him. Then, thank God for sending Jesus so that you can have joy, always.

READ JEREMIAH 29:13

DAY 3

Today's verse promises that when we look for God we will find Him. But how do you seek God? How do you look for God when you can't see Him face to face?

HEAR – You can hear from God when you read His word, the Bible. Ask questions about what you read and memorize what it says.

PRAY – You can talk to Him anytime, anywhere about anything.

TALK – You can talk about God with people who follow Him, like your parents, your small group leader, and the friends in your small group at church.

Pick ONE of these ways to seek God and make a plan this week to work on it. Ask God to help you spend time hearing from His word, praying throughout your day and talking about Him with the people around you that follow Him too.

READ PSALM 70:4

DAY 4

What is the very last word of today's verse?
Yes—GREAT! Would you describe this week as great? You're probably on school break with your family, right? Maybe your little brother is driving you crazy. Maybe you're bored and ready to get back into the routine of school. Or maybe all the sleeping in with unlimited time to play with new toys is making for the best week ever.

The word "great" in our verse today isn't describing your week. It's describing our awesome, amazing heavenly Father! God is great! And one way you can find joy, even if this week isn't so great, is to remember who is really in charge of it all.

Write the words "God, you are great!" on a sticky note and place it next to your sink. Each time you wash your hands, read that phrase out loud in a different voice. You'll find some suggestions in the box below. Thank God for being the GREATEST and for helping you find joy because of His love for you!

VOICES:

BABY, SCREAMING, WHISPERING, OPERA,
SUPER LOW, SUPER HIGH, GROUCHY, SURPRISED,
SCARED, EXCITED, OUT OF BREATH, LIKE YOUR
MOUTH IS FULL OF MARBLES.

YOU
CAN FIND JOY
WHEN YOU SEARCH
FOR GOD.

