

Letters From Heaven



Parents' Page

Lesson 5

Rejoice in the Lord!

Your child should understand...

Joy—Belonging to and serving the Lord

Your child should be able to...

1. Describe what made Paul happy.
2. Identify how we can please God and be truly happy.

Your child should be memorizing...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (NIV)

Please help your child read...

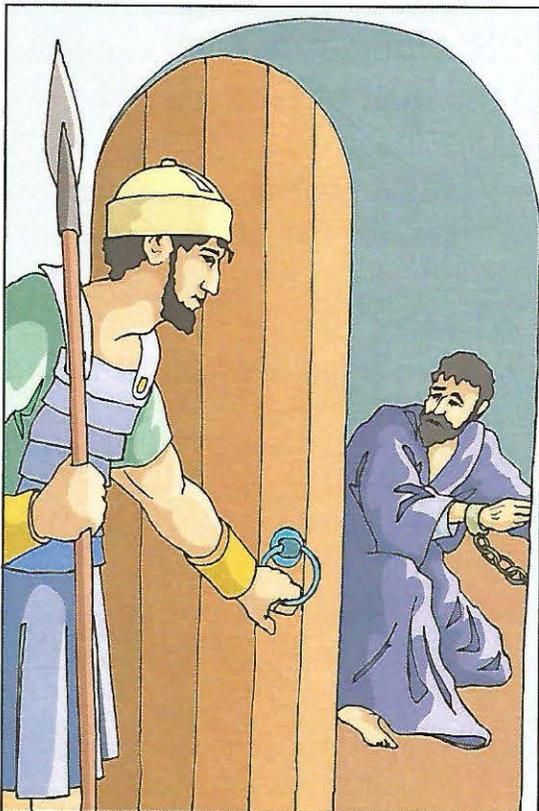
1. Philippians 1:3-5, 9-11, 13-14
2. Philippians 1:19-21, 27-29
3. Philippians 2:1-2, 4-11
4. Philippians 3:9-14
5. Philippians 4:4, 6-8, 11-13, 19-20

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The Christians at Philippi were happy to get a special letter from Paul and Timothy. This letter is the book of *Philippians*. The letter is full of words like *joy*, *rejoice*, *happy*, *glad*, *joyful*, and *cheerful*. Those are “smiling words,” aren’t they? Doesn’t it make you smile just to say those words?!

But wait! Hadn’t Paul been beaten and thrown in jail over and over again? Yes. Was it for bad things he had done? No. Paul had been put in jail just for being a Christian and preaching the gospel—the good news about Jesus. But was Paul sad or angry? No! He told the Philippians that he was *joyful* because he belonged to the Lord. He was *happy* that the Philippians were helping teach the gospel. He *rejoiced* that people were following Jesus. He was *glad* to see that Christians everywhere loved one another and took care of one another. He told the Philippians that he always prayed for them with *joy*. Did Paul seem to be an unhappy man? No! Paul was a believer, faithfully serving the Lord. So Paul could be truly happy because he knew that God was with him, no matter what men might do to him.



Was Paul angry when he was thrown in jail for preaching the gospel?

Can you name some things that made the apostle Paul truly happy?

Now, think of some things that make you happy. Are you happy when you get to go to a sleep-over or a movie? Sure! But what about when you have to do things you don't like? Are you glad when you're sick and have to take some yucky medicine? How about when you have to clean your room or do homework, while all of your friends play? Or how can you be joyful if your mother or daddy punishes you for disobeying them? It's hard to be full of joy when things happen that we don't like.

But God tells us the secret to being happy, even when we're hurting or have big problems. If we think about *good* things and thank God for all of our blessings, we'll feel better. And if we can be *kind* and *help someone else*, it will help us be happy. Just like the apostle Paul, we can think about the good and forget the bad. Loving and serving the Lord is the way to please Him. Loving and serving the Lord is the only way to be truly happy now and forever!

Can you think of some things you can do that will make you truly happy *and* that will please God?

Write some of them in the blanks below:



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Memory Verse:

You have **new memory verses** from one of Paul's letters to Timothy. Practice saying them over and over again with your mother or daddy.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV)

In which book of the Bible can we read about being saved by grace through Jesus?
(Galatians)



Turn to these Scriptures as fast as you can:

2 Corinthians 1:1

Galatians 1:1

On your Bible map, put one finger on Capernaum.