



## Family Worship Guide – 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-9

### MEMORIZE

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:12

Live such good lives among the pagans, that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

### READ

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-12

Immediately after identifying his audience as aliens, Peter opens with praise to God for Jesus Christ. In the rest of the verses Peter demonstrates why he is so full of praise for God. It begins with a new birth for all believers. According to these passages, we are born into two things. First, we are born into a living hope. And second, we are also born into an inheritance that can never perish. Both of these new realities for believers hinge on the same event: Jesus Christ resurrected.

Peter tells us that our living hope is through the resurrection. He is saying that Jesus Christ is not dead, therefore our hope is not dead either. Our hope is living just as Christ is living and seated at the right hand of the father. And that is where the second thing we are born into comes into place, an inheritance that can never perish. If Jesus is in heaven, and our inheritance is through Him, then just as Jesus will not ever perish, neither will our inheritance in Him. No wonder Peter starts off with praise to God our Father!

Peter then gives the reality check that believing in Jesus is not a get rich quick scheme, it is not an end to all of our problems. Peter recognizes that trials will still come. The difference for the Christian, however, is that their foundation is Christ. And when Jesus is our foundation, it makes all the difference. Instead of trials destroying us and robbing us of our joy, Christians can turn to Jesus and be continually filled with joy regardless of what they are going through.

**Discussion:** (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Joy comes when our foundation is a living hope. The world tells us that joy comes from pursuing happiness. What's the difference between happiness and joy?
2. In what ways are we pursuing happiness? What can we do to change that?
3. Peter tells us that God intends trials to be used to prove our faith genuine. Compare this with James 1:2-4 and 1:13-15. What does Satan want us to do when trials come? How can we follow verses 2-4 when trials come instead of verses 13-15?
4. Verse 8 tells us to love Jesus, trust Jesus and rejoice in Jesus. What does this look like practically? What would it look like for our family to embrace these even more?

**Bottom Line:** As aliens, we can respond to life's trials in a way that is truly out of this world. When our foundation is the hope we have through the resurrection of Christ, nothing in this world can take away our joy. And not only does God use trials to shape us more into the image of his Son, when we respond with joy, others will see that and may come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

### SING

"Trading my Sorrows" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqjivEw7gzE>)

As you sing this song with your family, let the lyrics soak in. We have an alternative in Christ for when trials come our way. No matter what we face, we can have joy if our foundation is Jesus!

## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### Preschool (up to 5)

- Use a puppet and this skit to teach your child about joy.

Puppet: I give up! I can't do it!  
Parent: What's the matter?

Puppet: That would upset me.  
Parent: To feel God's joy, think about a way God is good to you

Puppet: I can't keep smiling.  
Parent: Why are you trying to smile?

Puppet: God put me in this family. You take care of me.  
Parent: That's right! Now pretend rain spoiled our picnic

Puppet: I want to be happy all the time.  
Parent: Happiness comes and goes, it is a feeling. Instead of trying to smile and be happy, why don't you ask God for His joy?

Puppet: Plop! Plop! Plop! It's raining! (pause)  
God made puddles for me to splash!  
Parent: Good. (Name of child) can you help (name of puppet) And me come up with reasons to say Thank you to God?

Puppet: Will joy make me smile all the time?  
Parent: No. You can have God's joy when you smile and when you're sad. It comes from knowing God loves you.

Have the puppet shout words of encouragement each time your child thanks God for something.

Puppet: How do I keep His joy even when bad things happen?  
Parent: Pretend you're upset because I won't give you a cookie.

Talk about how Joy is knowing God loves you.

### Children (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

- Wrap small amounts of money in individual packages and give one to each child. Encourage them to guess what's inside. Let them open it and help them consider how to use it (tithe, save, spend).
- Explain how God gives His people His joy as a daily gift. Talk about the difference between joy and happiness. God gives us joy during easy and difficult days. They can share joy with others because God is the provider. We show joy through good attitudes, helpfulness, and thankfulness.
- Read 1 Peter 1: 3-5 with your children. Pray together and thank God for giving Joy!

### Students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

- Review what you discussed above in the discussion questions about the differences between happiness and joy. Joy is a gift from God and can be present during difficult times.
- Think as a family of someone you know that you consider "joyful". Maybe even someone who lived joyfully amidst a hard time. What were the outward signs of joy in that person's life?
- Discuss how a positive outlook and encouraging words are sometimes an extension of God's joy. Emphasize that people who try to force themselves to be happy all the time do not necessarily have God's joy.
- How can the power of God's joy change your life? In the sermon we were challenged to continually read God's word, meditate, and pray; why? Talk to your kids about why you do these things and/or read through Psalm 119 to discover the Psalmists view on God's word. Emphasize devotion, not duty!

## PRAY

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His joy that remains with us no matter what we face.