

WEEK OF JULY 21, 2022



# !!! REJOICE !!!



BEFORE  
YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU  
NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



### TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations  
with God's Word.



### MORE TO EXPLORE

Answers to kids'  
questions.



### THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge.  
Use it all week.



### COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy  
before, during and after  
your family conversation.

TALK  
TOGETHER

## WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT THING YOU HAVE EVER DONE?

Have you run a long race? Climbed a big hill?

Finished a super-hard math problem? The apostle Paul wanted to live a life that pleased God and showed others how amazing God is — even if it meant doing some really difficult things!!

When Paul wrote the book of Philippians, he was in prison for sharing the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news about Jesus. While Paul was in prison, he wrote a letter to encourage his friends in Philippi, a place he had recently visited. I don't know about you;

but if I were in prison, encouraging my friends is the last thing I'd be

thinking about! I would miss my comfortable bed and hot meals and would wonder when I would get out of prison. **Let's read what Paul wrote to his friends in Philippians 1:12-14. (Families with older children, read all of chapter 1.)**



CONT...

***I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BROTHERS, THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HAS REALLY SERVED TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL, SO THAT IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE IMPERIAL GUARD AND TO ALL THE REST THAT MY IMPRISONMENT IS FOR CHRIST. AND MOST OF THE BROTHERS, HAVING BECOME CONFIDENT IN THE LORD BY MY IMPRISONMENT, ARE MUCH MORE BOLD TO SPEAK THE WORD WITHOUT FEAR.***

### **PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14**

Wow! Can you believe it? Instead of feeling sorry for himself or being mad, Paul used his time in jail to speak boldly about Jesus! Because Paul went to prison for sharing the Gospel, the entire imperial guard (soldiers) learned about Jesus. Those soldiers might not have heard about Jesus's gift of salvation any other way! Even when Paul faced hard times, he looked for ways to obey and honor God. He wanted to tell as many people as he could about Jesus's love for them.

Did you know Paul wasn't always a Christian? When he was a young man, he hated Christians. Thankfully, God had big plans for Paul — plans for him to help Christians, not hurt them!

God needed to get Paul's attention, so He took away Paul's sight! Then, God also used a man named Ananias to help Paul (originally named Saul, but changed to Paul).

**Let's read what happened in Acts. Can you help me find Acts 9:10-14?**



CONT... →

*NOW THERE WAS A DISCIPLE AT DAMASCUS NAMED ANANIAS. THE LORD SAID TO HIM IN A VISION, "ANANIAS." AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM, LORD." AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "RISE AND GO TO THE STREET CALLED STRAIGHT, AND AT THE HOUSE OF JUDAS LOOK FOR A MAN OF TARSUS NAMED SAUL, FOR BEHOLD, HE IS PRAYING, AND HE HAS SEEN IN A VISION A MAN NAMED ANANIAS COME IN AND LAY HIS HANDS ON HIM SO THAT HE MIGHT REGAIN HIS SIGHT." BUT ANANIAS ANSWERED, "LORD, I HAVE HEARD FROM MANY ABOUT THIS MAN, HOW MUCH EVIL HE HAS DONE TO YOUR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. AND HERE HE HAS AUTHORITY FROM THE CHIEF PRIESTS TO BIND ALL WHO CALL ON YOUR NAME.*

ACTS 9:10-14

God told Ananias that Paul would tell many people about Jesus. God also told Ananias something else. **Let's read what God told Ananias in Acts chapter 9, verses 15-16.**

*BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "GO, FOR HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT OF MINE TO CARRY MY NAME BEFORE THE GENTILES AND KINGS AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. FOR I WILL SHOW HIM HOW MUCH HE MUST SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF MY NAME."*

ACTS 9:15-16

Oh my! God told Ananias Paul would suffer for sharing the Gospel. Even though Paul would serve God and tell others about Jesus, things wouldn't always be easy for him.

Things may not always be easy for you either. You may have to do **hard things\***, like following God's ways even when people around you don't. But just like Paul, you can rejoice! You can trust God to use the hard things in life to **show the people around you just how great He is!\***

END OF TALK TOGETHER





## MORE TO EXPLORE

### **DO I HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO BE A CHRISTIAN?**

No. God knows we cannot be perfect while on Earth. The Bible tells us Christ died for our sins. As believers, however, we should desire to grow and become more like Christ every day. When we mess up, we can ask God for forgiveness and own up to our mistakes. This makes us different from the world and shows others that Jesus has changed us.

**(1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 12:9-12)**

### **WILL I FACE TRIALS BECAUSE OF MY FAITH IN JESUS?**

We do not know exactly what trials we will face because of our faith in Jesus. There will be times we make decisions that make us look different from the world around us, or even cause people to make fun of us. Despite this, we can be encouraged that as a follower of Jesus, God is for us and NOTHING can separate us from His love. (John 15:18-19, Romans 8:31-35)

### **HOW CAN I LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL?**

We can live a life worthy of the Gospel by following Jesus and asking Him to help us grow more like Him every day. He will transform our minds and help us live lives that reflect Him. **(Philippians 1:27-30, Romans 12:1-2)**

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

- Invite your older kids to read Acts 9:1-9. This passage explains how Paul (Saul) lost his sight.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Rejoice:** Showing great joy.

# ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF JULY 21, 2022

## ♥ MEMORIZE

*I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BROTHERS, THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HAS REALLY SERVED TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.*

**PHILIPPIANS 1:12**

**Q:** WHAT CAN I DO WHEN THINGS ARE DIFFICULT?

**A:** REJOICE!

## SHARE

Share a time you followed Jesus's example for your life and how it impacted those around you.



## PRAY

**DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP US LIVE LIVES WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL. GIVE US THE COURAGE TO LIVE BOLDLY FOR YOU. WE LOVE YOU. AMEN.**

## CONSIDER

Ask your big kid to think about one way they can boldly live for Christ in their everyday life. Then, help them pray and ask God for strength to live boldly for Him!

## INVITE

Help your child think of someone they can invite to church. Pick out a card and help your child write down one thing about their friend they are thankful for. Then, invite the friend to visit your church! Help your child deliver the card.

## CREATE

Draw a line on a piece of paper and write your child's name on it. Underneath your child's name, use a pen to write, "wants to be bold for Jesus." Trace the words in glue and help your child sprinkle glitter on the words.

## ACT

Paul went through many trials while seeking to live a life worthy of the Gospel. He showed us how to live our lives and pointed us toward Christ. Act out the story of Paul's conversion in Acts chapter 9! Assign parts to members of your family and friends. Don't forget the narrator!



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

## SING

Listen to this playlist throughout this series to Rejoice!

  
**Talk About**

# Talk About



I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BROTHERS,  
THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME  
HAS REALLY SERVED TO ADVANCE  
THE GOSPEL.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12

# REJOICE

WHAT CAN I DO WHEN  
THINGS ARE DIFFICULT?

REJOICE!

