

Three easy steps for an at-home experience!



BIG IDEA: Knowing Jesus Gives Us Joy

Paul had a tough life – he'd been beaten up, shipwrecked, chased out of cities, thrown in prison – all to teach people about Jesus. But Paul didn't give up. As a matter of fact, through everything he was always full of joy! In Philippians 4:4, Paul told the Christians to "Rejoice in the Lord, always. I will say it again, rejoice!" In our own lives, we have our ups and downs. But when we know Jesus, He gives us joy in our hearts even when times are tough.



STEP ONE: READ THE BIBLE STORY

Acts 27:9-44 in the NIV Bible.
Pages 430-435 in the Read With Me Bible.



STEP TWO: WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO

Available at youtube.com/eastviewkids
Passport - Week 5



STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

FOR YOUNGER KIDS: Crossing the Stormy Sea

Materials: Bed sheet

In our story today, Paul was in a very stormy situation! I bet he and all the other passengers on board were very frightened! Let's pretend we are in a stormy sea and we need to cross to the other side!

Take out the bed sheet and lay it across the floor. One or two grown-ups can hold the sides of the sheet to make it shake up and down a bit. Each family member takes a turn crossing the stormy sea. Each time, they should cross in a different way: crab walk, hop on one foot, walk backwards, bear crawl, etc.

After some fun sea-crossing, wrap up the activity.

Paul probably felt pretty scared on the boat. But he trusted Jesus and he knew Jesus was with him. Paul went through a lot of hard times, but no matter what happened, he had joy in his heart. When we feel scared or sad or lonely, we can remember that Jesus is with us, and he can help us be joyful in any situation.

FOR OLDER KIDS: Bent and Torn

Materials: Piece of paper

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 with your family. List all the things that happened to Paul: he was beaten, stoned, ship-wrecked, in danger, robbed, hungry, imprisoned...

But in the face of all this, Paul chose to rejoice! Do you think you could rejoice under such circumstances?

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Now read 2 Corinthians 12:10. What was Paul's reaction to these circumstances? He chose to see the positive--God was with him and making him stronger!

Take out the piece of paper. (To see a diagram of how to fold and tear the paper, click here. From Family Time Activities, Playing for Keeps, by Kirk Weaver).

Sometimes we felt bent, folded and crushed.

Fold the right upper corner of the paper down to the left edge. Then fold the left top pointed edge down, matching the lower edge of your previous fold, forming a "house" shape. Lastly, fold the paper in half from left to right. The left edge will be straight, and the right edge will be angled.

Sometimes we even feel torn, like we are being ripped apart.

Rip off the right side of the folded paper.

But, even when bad things happen to us, God knows and loves us. We don't always understand, but God does and will help us.

Open up the paper.

This sheet of paper was folded, bent and torn, but look what happened. What is it now? A cross! God has a plan and a purpose for our lives even when bad things happen. Paul knew this and chose to rejoice. We can trust God and rejoice in his love for us!