



JOY

Finding a way to be happy,
even when things don't go
your way.

MEMORY VERSE

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4, NIV

WEEK 1:

God Promises a Savior
Isaiah 9:6-7

BOTTOM LINE:

I can have joy because God keeps
His promises.

WEEK 2:

Zechariah and Elizabeth
Luke 1:5-25; 57-79

BOTTOM LINE:

I can have joy because anything is
possible with God.

WEEK 3:

Jesus is Born
Luke 2:1-7

BOTTOM LINE:

I can have joy because God sent
His Son.

WEEK 4:

Shepherds and Angels
Luke 2:8-20

BOTTOM LINE:

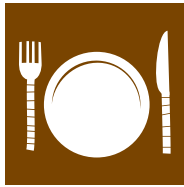
I can have joy because God's story is
for everyone.

WEEK 5:

Simeon at the Temple
Luke 2:21-35

BOTTOM LINE:

I can have joy because God has a
plan to make things right.



MEAL TIME

WEEK 1:

Ask a kid: Where do you think real joy comes from?

Ask a parent: If joy is contagious, what might happen when we DON'T choose joy?

WEEK 2:

Ask a kid: What is something you can do to make sure your joy lasts?

Ask a parent: What circumstances threaten to uproot the happiness in your life?

WEEK 3:

Ask a kid: If you are only happy when things are good, what does that say to others about your joy?

Ask a parent: Do you notice someone's joy more when things are going great in their life, or more when things are hard?

WEEK 4:

Ask a kid: How have you let others steal your joy sometimes?

Ask a parent: Why might focusing on the gifts, the food, the parties at Christmastime cause people to lose their joy?

WEEK 5:

Ask a kid: Talk about a time when it was hard for you to choose joy because something bad happened.

Ask a parent: Talk about a time when it was hard for you to choose joy because something bad happened.



PARENT TIME

Like so many other families, we talk with our kids about helping those less fortunate than ourselves around Christmastime. But the year they were able to volunteer at a Christmas party for kids in an underprivileged part of town, my kids began to really see the value of generosity. As we handed out gifts to other kids and saw their joy, all those conversations about the value of helping others became real.

Experiencing something with our kids almost always beats saying something

to our kids. Especially if what we do underscores what we would say. Shared experiences always make a deeper impact than just sharing words. In this month's Parent Link Live podcast we'll discuss some specific experiences you and your kids can share this month. Download the podcast on www.OrangeParents.org.

Also check out www.Studio252.tv and the Parent CUE App for your smartphone.