

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next—Through Strong Heart Connections

PARENTS PAGE

October 7-10, 2009

Joy from Worship—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a teenager goes first): When it is your turn, say: **I'm glad you think some of my work responsibilities are cool. I don't mind working to provide for the needs of my family. I especially find joy when my family is able to . . .**

2. Read Scripture: Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Psalm 100:1-5. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

Truth

- We can experience true joy when we worship God.

Untruths

- True joy can only be found by fulfilling your own desires.
- All the pain in the world proves that joy is just an illusion.
- Worship is something I have to do to make God happy.

3. Explore Scripture: Read Psalm 100 aloud and point out that this chapter is an invitation to worship God with joy. Explain that we are invited to mix praise and thanksgiving when we worship Him. Say: **Our joy increases when we worship Him as:**

- **The only living God**
- **Our Creator**
- **Our Sovereign Ruler**
- **Merciful**
- **True and Faithful**

4. Think It Through: A teenager will lead this activity.

5. Nail It Down: Encourage family members to reflect again on the list of God's characteristics found in "Explore Scripture." Ask: **Which of these facts about God gives you the most joy when you worship? Why?** Share the description that gives you the most joy. Point out that all of these are reason enough to worship God with joy. Ask: **How would a better understanding of your relationship with God lead to greater joy in your life?**

6. Pray: Thank God for the joy He has given you as you understand more about Him.

7. Blessing: Say: **We bless You, God, for giving us joy and the freedom to praise You in worship.**

Parent Tip: Turn off the television during meals. Families that watch television instead of enjoying conversation during mealtimes are dysfunctional. They use media to anesthetize their lack of communication. Parents who want healthy, kingdom kids will turn the set off.