



FINDING A WAY TO BE HAPPY,
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY



READ PSALM 40:16

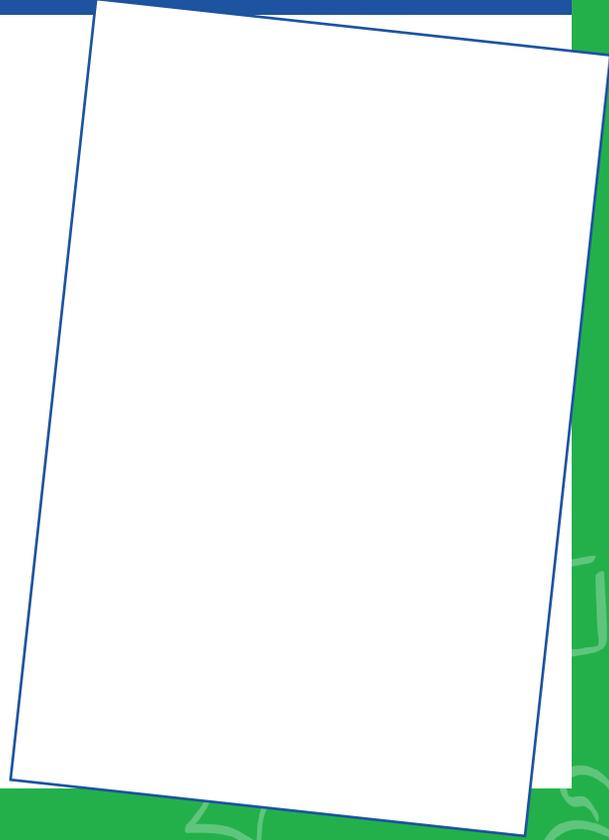
DAY 1

Name some people you can count on in the space to the right.

Today's verse reminds us that we can always count on God. He IS great because He promises He will never leave us. And He proved His love for us when He sent Jesus as a baby on that night over 2,000 years ago. God is who He says He is and He does what He says He will do. No matter what happens around you, even if you have the worst day where nothing goes the way you thought it would, you are not alone. You can have joy because God is with you.

Write this verse on a card and stick it in your wallet if you have one or tape it to the front of your piggy bank as a reminder that you can always count on God!

Read this verse out loud and thank God for being a great big, loving God that you can always count on!



READ MATTHEW 1:23

DAY 2

What does "Immanuel" mean? God with us. Jesus left His throne in heaven, where nothing bad or sad ever happens and came to earth to live with us. He experienced all the bad and all the sad things we experience so that we could KNOW Him.

That's why Christmas is such a big celebration. God didn't have to send His one and only Son. But He did because He wanted us to know Him. Because of this precious, perfect gift, we can have a relationship with God.

Draw a picture of Jesus in the manger and put it in your backpack or in the car. Every time you look at the picture you've drawn, thank God for the reminder that He is with you, always. Write down a simple prayer thanking God for sending Jesus as our Immanuel, God with us.

READ LUKE 1:28

DAY 3

Grab a piece of paper and draw your reaction if an angel suddenly showed up in your bedroom.

Did you make a scared or surprised face?

When the angel appeared to Mary, she was both of those things. She was upset because she didn't understand what was happening and she was surprised that God would choose her for such an important role. Being a mom is a big deal. Being a mom to the King of all Kings, well, that's on a whole other level.

But Gabriel's answer was simple. He said, "Do not be afraid."

Guess what? The same is true for you. When you are scared, you need to remember one big truth. God is with you. He sent His only Son Jesus so that you could know Him. We can have joy, even when we're uncertain, because God is in control and we are never alone.

Take a look at the face you drew. Ask God to help you remember that He is with you, even when you feel like the picture you're holding.

READ MATTHEW 1:21

DAY 4

When the angel appeared to tell Joseph this big news about Jesus, he was so confused. He hadn't even married Mary yet and already they were going to have a baby? But this baby would grow up to do what no one else could do! Did you catch the last part of the verse? He would be called "Jesus" because He will save people from their sins.

Sin is anything we do that we know is wrong. We all sin. However, God never sins. He is perfect. That means that our sins separate us from Him.

God sent Jesus as one of us so that He could rescue us. That's why we celebrate Christmas!

Read this verse with a trusted adult and talk about what it means. Spend some time praying together, thanking God for sending Jesus!

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