

# THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

LESSON 51

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Dear Parents,

Hello Again! This week we completed the fifty-first lesson in our study entitled The LIFE, all about being a disciple of God. This week we learned what it means to have joy even in the midst of trials and difficulties in our lives. This week's lesson was a very practical time of discussion and application. I hope your teenager enjoyed our time.

This week, the lesson was entitled "There is Joy in the Difficulty," focusing on the ability of Christ-followers to exhibit joy even in the hardest of circumstances (and in so doing grow more and more to look like Christ). We challenged your teenager to dig deep and discover how the Christian perspective on suffering allows believers to grow in their trust of God and relationship with Christ.

## We looked at the following Scripture passages:

- James 1:2-4
- Matthew 5:11-12

## Next Steps . . .

During the next week as you have time to talk with your teenager, remember that one way that will help him or her to understand and apply what he or she has learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- You talked some this week about the definition of joy as opposed to happiness, and how joy lasts even in the face of difficulty. How does this view of joy change your view of the importance of happiness in the life of a Christ-follower?
- Ok, so the Bible says that we should be joyful when the trials and difficulties of life come our way. But aren't trials and difficulty the opposite of joy? How can we possibly be filled with joy when bad things happen in our life?
- It is amazing to think about all that God has done to redeem and save every believer in Him. It's even more amazing to think about how He uses every circumstance in our lives to make us more like Jesus. What is one bad thing in your life that Jesus has used to help your trust in Him even more deeply? (Be ready to share the same with your child.)

Thank you for all you do. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to call me.