

UNIT TITLE: THE EMOTIONS OF CHRISTMAS

With its splendor and wonder, busyness and chaos, Christmas can be an emotional season for most of us. In this series, kids will explore the emotions that come up this time of the year, and that were experienced during the very first Christmas.

LESSON #2: THE JOY IN MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH

SCRIPTURES: LUKE 1:39-47

MAIN EMPHASIS: *Having God in our life brings joy to us and to those around us.*

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6 NLV (*only the underlined for younger kids)

For to us a Child will be born. To us a Son will be given. And the rule of the nations will be on His shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Teacher, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

CLEARING OF DIFFICULTIES:

1. ELIZABETH: the wife of Zechariah, cousin of Mary and mother of John Baptist.
2. MARY: a virgin who was chosen by God to conceive Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
3. JOHN THE BAPTIST: son of Elizabeth; earthly second cousin of Jesus.
4. JUDEA: the place where Elizabeth lived; (for higher kids: tradition says it was in EIN KAREM within Judea)
5. NAZARETH: the place where Mary lived.
6. JOY: a deeper emotion than happiness that comes from within — from a sense of purpose and meaning, including finding meaning in suffering — and from relationships with others.

INTRODUCTION

During Christmas season, some families go to their hometown provinces to visit their relatives and get together. Such visits bring happiness to both the visited and the visitor/s spending quality time talking for hours while the kids play with their cousins. The gathering involves celebration with food, stories, and songs.

Did you know that Jesus has an earthly second cousin?

LESSON PROPER:

After angel Gabriel delivered the message to Mary that she will be giving birth to the Son of God and the baby will be named Jesus, from Nazareth to a town in the hill country of Judea, Mary visited Elizabeth, her cousin.

Ang Pagdalaw ni Mary kay Elizabeth



Hindi nagtagal at si Mary ay nagmamadaling pumunta sa isang bayan sa bulubundukin ng Judea. Pagdating sa bahay ni Zechariah, binati niya si Elizabeth. Nang marinig ni Elizabeth ang pagbati ni Mary, biglang gumalaw ang sanggol sa kanyang sinapupunan at siya ay napuspos ng Espiritu Santo. Napasigaw siya sa galak, “Pinagpala ka sa mga babae, at pinagpala rin ang dinadala mo sa iyong sinapupunan! Sino ako upang dalawin ng ina ng aking Panginoon? Sapagkat pagkarinig ko ng iyong pagbati ay gumalaw sa tuwa ang sanggol sa aking sinapupunan. Pinagpala ka, sapagkat sumampalataya kang matutupad ang ipinasabi sa iyo ng Panginoon!”

Mary greeted, Elizabeth heard, and the latter's baby leaped and all experienced joy:

1. (V41-43) Elizabeth was joyful that she was filled with the Holy Spirit and knew her cousin, Mary, is carrying the Son of God in her womb.
2. (V44) John the Baptist, when he was just 6 months in her mother's womb, leaped for joy.
3. (V46-47) Mary, the visitor, was joyful as well and celebrated with her cousin about this announcement/message and being chosen by God.

Ang Awit ng Pagpupuri ni Maria

At sinabi ni Maria, “Ang puso ko'y nagpupuri sa Panginoon, at ang aking espiritu'y nagagalak sa Diyos na aking Tagapagligtas.

CONCLUSION

Based on the story we see that joy is deeper than happiness. This is more than an emotion for true joy will always end up praising God, thanking Him for all He has done.

LIFE APPLICATION:

Joy is not found in material things (new gadgets, shoes, clothing, luxuries, properties, etc.) nor in people. Joy can only be found in seeing clearly what God has done for you and being grateful about it. Even during visits with relatives, there can be no true joy if God is not the center of the celebration. Happiness is a temporary feeling depending on what's happening at the moment. God's will is not for us just be happy but to have joy in our hearts because He is in our lives.

EVALUATION

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY