

Say It: Be JOYFUL always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



JOY

Dare to Share . . . It's Fine to Shine!

Devotion 210

Did You Know:

Some words have both an *actual* (literal) meaning and a *symbolic* meaning. For example, the word "light" can mean an actual light you turn on, or that it is still "light" outside. But, the word "light" is also used in a *symbolic* way to mean the "truth" about something. For example, you could say, "When I asked him a question, I could tell that a 'light' went on before he answered," or, "I don't understand. Will you please shed some 'light' on it?"

Talk About It: Read each question aloud and share your thoughts.

1. **Explain** the meaning of the word "dark" when someone says, "Please tell me! Don't keep me in the 'dark'!"
2. **Read** John 8:12. Jesus declares three things. **What** does He imply with His use of the words "light" and "darkness" in these three statements?
3. **Read** aloud John 14:6. **What** does Jesus imply when He states He is "the truth"?
4. The "light" or "truth" of Christ Jesus can be seen in you when you become a Christian. That's because the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, gives you **joy!** **Talk about** some students at school who shine the light and **joy** of Christ through their facial expressions, by their speech, or by how they treat others.
5. In groups, **read** and discuss the meaning of the song lyrics below. Each group **share** with the club what the song is about and how you can apply these words at school.
(After the groups have shared you may choose to listen to the song online.)

"Ready or Not"

Britt Nicole (featuring Christian singer, Lecrae)

Selected lyrics

I refuse to keep this buried deep inside of me
Yeah this little light of mine, it's time to let it shine a bit
'Cause there's no point in hiding it
It's everything I am, the source of all my hope
And it's the reason why I stand
And I pledge allegiance to be somebody real
There's no more holding it back
I'm showing them how I feel 'cause love is more than a word
It's a noun, and a verb, and hiding it is absurd
Ya heard

Grow It: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23



6. **Read** 1 Peter 3:15-16. When you really know Jesus as your Savior, then your friends should see a real **joy** in you. You should always be ready to *shine* the light of Jesus by *sharing* your faith with your friends! **Why** is it important to *live what you say you believe* when sharing about Jesus?
7. **Why** is it hard to *share* with your friends about Jesus? **Read** Matthew 5:11-12 to jump-start your thinking.
8. **Read** Matthew 5:14-16. **Give** some definite ways you shine your light at home, on your team, or in the classroom and cafeteria.
9. **Tell about** a time you *dared to share* your faith and the **joy** you experienced.

Live It: You may know about the game “**Truth or Dare.**” The game requires you to **truthfully** answer a personal question or else perform a **dare**. Instead, why not **DARE** yourself to *share* the **TRUTH** of the love of Jesus with others?

Read It: Search God’s Truth for answers to the discussion questions.

John 8:12 NIV Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, “I am the *light* of the world. Those who follow Me will never walk in *darkness*. They will have the *light* that leads to life.”

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the *way* and the *truth* and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV ¹⁵ But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. ¹⁶ Live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong. Some people may say evil things about your good conduct as believers in Christ. If they do, they will be put to shame for speaking like that about you.

Matthew 5:11-12 NIV (Jesus speaking) ¹¹ Blessed are you when people make fun of you and hurt you because of Me. You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of Me. ¹² Be JOYFUL and glad. Your reward in heaven is great. In the same way, people hurt the prophets who lived long ago.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV (Jesus speaking) ¹⁴ You are the *light* of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵ Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your *light* shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.

Know It: *Joy is cheerfulness, calm delight and heartfelt gladness from knowing and trusting the Lord. Unlike happiness, joy focuses on the source of life (God) rather than the circumstances of life (which change).*