

Imagine the Lord's Joy!

Adapted from a Family Lesson on John 15

Have you thought about the Lord's joy when He was in the world? Think about His deep inward joy. We may think about the Lord's temptations and conflict with evil, but not picture the Lord's joy.

As you read each section, please take time to reflect and imagine the Lord's joy.

A

When you have wonderful news for another person, you enjoy giving the good news. The Lord knew about heaven, and He knew that the disciples were going to heaven. They had neither the knowledge of heaven nor the great hope. But once the Lord said to them,

"Rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10: 20).

Picture the Lord giving that happy news!

B

The Lord once told a vivid story about a man seeking one lost sheep.

"And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls his friends and neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!" (Luke 15: 6).

Although you know that story well, have you stopped to think of the Lord as the good shepherd coming into this world to seek and to save and full of joy in doing it?

C

When a teacher senses that what he or she wants to convey is getting across and really making a difference, it makes that teacher feel good. Picture the Lord being so glad that innocent people and the young can see good and true things.

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the spirit and said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for true things that had been revealed unto babes" (Luke 10: 21).

"Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see" (Luke 10: 23)

D

One of the vivid ways to picture the Lord's joy when He is received is to have in your mind a story from the Word in which someone is so happy they just bow right down to the ground with joy. For example, see Genesis 23, verses 7 & 12, in which Abraham bows down with sheer joy. The Writings tell us this is a picture of "the Lord's joy" when people receive Him (*Arcana Coelestia* 2729, 2950).

E

Perhaps the deepest description of PEACE there can be is this: *"Peace is the joy felt by the Lord in angels and by angels from the Lord" (Heaven and Hell 286).* The Lord said, *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you"* (John 14: 27). Think about it.

When the Lord's work in the world was completed, He had peace, and so did the angels and people on earth. (*Arcana Coelestia* 10730: 2.) The Lord's greeting to us is *"peace be unto you."*

F

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full" (John 15: 11).

Picture the Lord's joy each time we take a step toward heaven.
See the Lord standing with His arms reaching out to help us on our journey!