

# KIDS BRING JOY

GENESIS 21: 1-7

## INTRO

This story, about the BEST NEWS EVER, starts with God.

God made everything, including ALL people.

Now, he could have made a world in which ALL people ALWAYS start out grown up, like he made Australian Brush Turkeys, **[Turkey graphic]** which are able to run, hunt for food, and fly on the same day they hatch! (Is that amazing or what?!)

But he didn't. Instead, he designed people to start out helpless... small, cute and cuddly. They stay small, too, for years. They're funny and playful, silly and noisy, full of life and energy. In other words, they're kids... who need someone to love them and care for them.

Have you ever wondered why God made people this way? I have, and I think he wants to show us something about ourselves and something about himself. First, he wants to show us that we're ALL like kids. Nobody

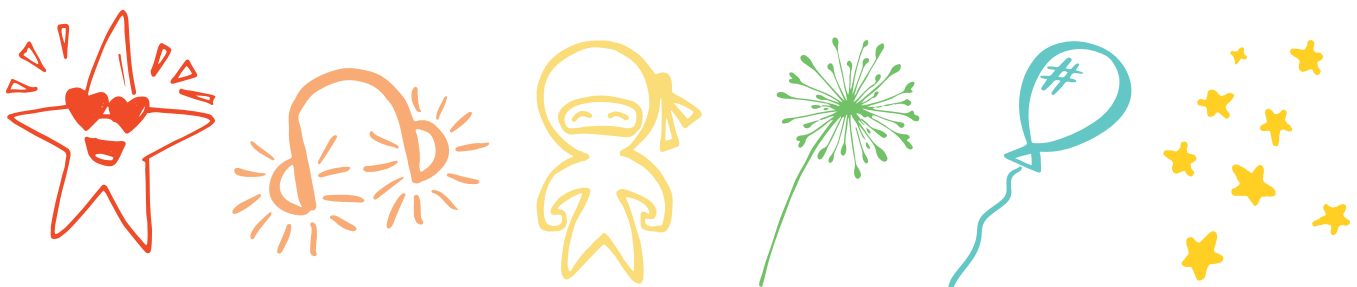
ever outgrows needing someone to love and care for them.

From the tiniest person to the biggest, from the youngest to the most ancient... we all need someone to love us and care for us. But not just ANYbody.

Because the second thing he wants to show us is that the someone we all need is... God! And God loves it when we recognize that, and come to him like kids run to their loving daddy!

So, I think THAT'S why God made kids. And why **God LOVES kids!!**

Five GREAT words describe some of the wonderful things God loves about kids! If you're a kid, then they're things God loves about YOU. We're going to explore those five words this week. Today, let's start with the first great word, JOY. **[Joy graphic]**



God loves that YOU bring JOY. Oh, yeah, you do! You bring God joy, just by being who you are. You bring joy to your family, too! (No matter how often they get annoyed with you. Really.)

- Here are some kids who were asked to tell what makes their parents happy: (edit to start at 1:09 and end at 1:42ish)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR\\_\\_nphBOy8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR__nphBOy8)

Most of those kids knew that they made their parents happy! They give their parents joy!

The Bible tells about a woman named Sarah who had grown very old and still didn't have any children, but God promised she would have a baby. Even though she was far too old, God kept his promise, and she and her husband, Abraham, had a baby boy! Wow! They were so happy, they LAUGHED with joy! They named their boy Isaac (which means "laughter")

- Sarah and Isaac Bible Theater clip (edit clip to end at 0:40)

<https://open.life.church/items/129951-abraham-s-big-test-mp4>

Just like Isaac brought joy to Sarah and Abraham, YOU bring joy to your family. If they ever lost you, your parents would be sadder than you can even imagine. Finding you again would make them happier than Christmas morning!

Do you know you bring joy to the heart of God, too? You do! Listen to what the Bible says about you in **Zephaniah 3:17**:

**"The Lord your God is with you.**

**The mighty One will save you.**

**The Lord will be happy with you.**

**You will rest in his love.**

**He will sing and be joyful about you."**

Are you surprised that God sings about you?

Well, think of it this way. Have you ever made something you felt really proud of? Maybe you built something out of Lego®, or created an art project that made you feel happy every time you looked at it? That's a tiny bit like God's joy over you. It doesn't depend on how well you do at school or how perfectly you behave. You bring God joy just because he made you, and he really loves the you he made! Wow!

So, how does it feel to know you bring JOY to your family and to God? Take a minute to turn and tell your neighbor which of the following is closest to describing how it feels:

**"It feels like...**

**[slides with pictures]**

- A. ...unwrapping a present of puppies."
- B. ...swimming with dolphins."
- C. ...getting to eat dessert first."



## END WITH PRAYER

God, thank you for creating each kid individually and wonderfully special, so they can experience being loved and cared for by you. Thank you for how lovingly you made them. Help each one here to know that they bring joy to you!! Help them rest in your love today. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## TAKE HOME

Hey, kids, we have a super-fun opportunity for you! Before we see you next time, take a video of yourself telling how YOU brought joy to someone!

- Email it to \_\_\_\_\_
- Or text it to \_\_\_\_\_
- Or post it to Instagram or Facebook and tag us @\_\_\_\_\_

We'll show your video to our whole group! Won't that be cool? You can be a video star!

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