

FAMILY ACTION PACK
Week 1—Special Time
Taste Testers

You will need

A Blindfold

Two drinks or food items that you know your child likes.
One drink or food item that you figure your child will dislike.
Your Bible marked at Philippians 4:4.

Get Started

Send your children to another room while you find three drinks or food items, two that you know they like and at least one that you figure they won't like. For example, you might use chocolate milk, Pepsi, and prune or pickle juice. Then blindfold your children and bring them in one at a time to be a "Taste Tester." Give them the item they won't like last.

ASK—*Did you get what you expected?*

SAY—Sometimes in life we get what we expect, sometimes we don't. Bad things can even happen to good people, but listen to what the Bible says about what we should do when bad things happen.

Read Philippians 4:4 from your Bible.

ASK—*When "bad" things happen, what can you do?*
(Make the choice to rejoice.)

ASK—*Why do you think you can always rejoice?* (Because God is faithful. He'll never let you down. He'll always keep His Word. You can trust Him, etc.)

ASK—*What are some things our family can rejoice about?*
(Don't just list good things. Also list things that they might consider

to be "bad." For example, we can rejoice even though daddy lost his job. Why? Because we trust God and we know He won't let us down.)

PRAY—And thank God that no matter what happens in our lives, because of who He is, we can make the choice to rejoice.

Family Prayer Requests

List prayer requests here:

NOTE: If your children want a further answer about why they can rejoice in the middle of difficult times, explain that sometimes we do wrong things and these bad choices bring "bad" things into our lives. But sometimes we do everything right and someone else does something wrong and we get hurt because of it. Even so, there's nothing your children will ever do that is so bad that God can't forgive them and there's nothing so bad that can happen to them that God can't turn it around to their good if they love Him and are walking with Him. (See Romans 8:28 for a great promise.)

FAMILY ACTION PACK

Week 1—Food for Thought

You will need

Egg Nog

Cups for each family member

A small object that you can throw (like a ball)

A Bible marked at 1 John 4:14

Get Started

Have each member of your family try a sip of Holiday Egg Nog. Some will like it. Others will probably hate it.

SAY—Whether or not you like Egg Nog is a matter of taste. There's no right or wrong answer, but in life, right will always be right and wrong will always be wrong.

ASK—***Would you believe me if I said I can throw [the object] in the air and it won't fall back down?***

Throw the object in the air.

ASK—***Why did it come back?*** (A law called gravity that says what goes up must come down.)

ASK—***A thousand years ago, if someone had thrown this up, what would have happened?*** (It would have fallen back down.)

ASK—***A thousand years from now, if someone threw this up, what would happen?*** (It would fall back down.)

SAY—God's law of gravity will never change. In the same way, what is right today was right when God made the world and will be right until the end of time. What's wrong today has always been wrong and will always be wrong. Right and wrong will NEVER change.

ASK—***What is something else that will never change?*** (God will never change. That there is only one way to heaven will never change, etc. These aren't matters of opinion. They have always been true and they will always be true.)

KEY—So if anyone ever tells you that right and wrong are a matter of opinion—like whether or not you like Egg Nog—just realize that they're wrong. Then take the opportunity to tell them about the Savior of the world.

Read 1 John 4:14 from your Bible.

PRAY—Thank God for loving us so much that He sent and Savior.

Week 1—Making Memories Adopt a Family

Call your church office and make plans to adopt all or part of a needy family. (Or if money is an issue, you can even commit to getting one item.) Then allow your children to play an active part in deciding what to get the family. Let them be there when you buy it. Give them the chance to help pay for it but don't make them pay for it, and let them go with you when you deliver then items to the church.

